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FBIS-NES-95-167 CONTENTS *29 August 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Israeli Attempt To Settle Palestinians Rejected *[Cairo Radio]* 1
UN Failure To Halt Attacks on Lebanon Criticized *[Cairo Radio]* 1

Islamic Affairs

OIC Concerned Over UN Withdrawal From Gorazde *[SPA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Denounces Closure of Jerusalem Offices *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Al-Husayni Berates Institutions' Closings *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
'Arafat Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting *[Jericho VOP]* 2
    More on Council Meeting *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Al-Rujub on Return to Elat, Closure, Extradition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Hamas Leader: 'Palestine Is Purely Islamic Territory' *[Munich FOCUS 28 Aug]* 4
'Arafat Receives Russian Envoy's Credentials *[Jericho VOP]* 5

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin Says al-Rujub Can Leave Jericho, Attend Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 5
'Some' Committees Resume Talks in Elat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Ahmad Quray' Comments on Elat Negotiations *[Cairo International]* 6
    Says Talks' Halt To Protest Closure *[Jericho VOP]* 7
'Urayqat Comments on al-Rujub, Permit Issue *[Jerusalem International]* 7
'Arafat Adviser Rules Out Agreement by 7 Sep *[MENA]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Musa Interviewed on Regional, Arab Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Aug]* 9
Mubarak Grants Interview to Israeli Media on POW's *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Al-Baz Comments on POW's, Iraq, Nuclear Weapons *[MENA]* 18
Columnist: Cairo, Jerusalem To Blame for POW's *[AL-AHRAM 24 Aug]* 18
U.S. Policy Toward Saddam, Middle East Viewed *[AL-AHRAM 24 Aug]* 19
AL-HAYAH Cites al-Jihad Leadership Dispute *[AFP]* 20
Information Minister Denies Sudanese Deported *[MENA]* 20
Five Opposition Parties Plan To Contest Elections *[MENA]* 20

Mauritania

Former Minister Forms New Political Party *[Libreville Radio]* 20

Sudan

Official Says Ties With Egypt 'Top Priority' *[MENA]* 20
TNA Speaker: Stronger Ties With Ethiopia Sought *[SUNA]* 21
Taha Briefed by Iraqi Ambassador on Defection *[SUNA]* 21
Minister Briefs British Envoy, Hails Relations *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
Al-Din Views Contacts With Opposition Groups *[SUNA]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir Gets Letter From Bangladeshi Prime Minister *[WAKH]* 23

Kuwait

Minister on Iraqi Threat, Military Response *[AL-WAFD 22 Aug]* 23
TV Previews Upcoming U.S.-Kuwaiti Maneuvers *[Kuwait TV]* 24
UN General Assembly President Begins Visit *[KUNA]* 24
Oil Minister: 'No Decision' on Oil for Jordan *[KUNA]* 24
U.S. C-17 Transport Aircraft Arrives *[Kuwait TV]* 25
Plane Carrying Aid Leaves for Croatia *[Riyadh Radio]* 25

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Condemns Serb Shelling of Sarajevo *[SPA]* 25
Bosnian President Receives Saudi Aid in Mostar *[Riyadh Radio]* 25
Europeans Said Against Muslim State in Europe *[Riyadh Radio]* 26

United Arab Emirates

Dubayy Begins Negotiations To Buy Iranian Gas *[AFP]* 26

IRAQ

Exiles Say 'Udayy Under House Arrest *[AFP]* 28
TV Airs More Alleged Remarks by Husayn Kamil *[Baghdad TV]* 28
Husayn Kamil on Defection, Regime, Plans *[London AL-WASAT 28 Aug-3 Sep]* 31
Husayn Kamil Says Regime To Fall Soon *[London MBC TV]* 36
Saddam Reacts to U.S. Credibility 'Accusation' *[INA]* 37
Opposition Figure Urges Arabs To Oust Saddam *[Cairo International]* 37
Editorial Attacks Foreign Broadcasts on Unrest *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 17 Jun]* 38
Paper: Baghdad 'Undeterred' by U.S. Troop Buildup *[INA]* 40
Paper on U.S. 'Media Fuss,' Embargo *[INA]* 41
Paper on U.S. 'Terrorist,' 'Colonialist' History *[INA]* 42
Protest Submitted to Arab League on Jordan Denied *[MENA]* 42
Iranian Regime's 'Armament Fever' Criticized *[AL-THAWRAH 3 Aug]* 42
Tribal Chiefs Pledge Loyalty to Saddam *[AL-THAWRAH 16 Aug]* 43
Opposition Says Helicopters Fly Near Irbil *[Voice of the People]* 44
PUK Radio Reports Attacks by KDP Forces *[Voice of the People]* 44
KDP Radio Reports PKK 'Surprise Attack' *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 44
PKK Said Responsible for Attack Repercussions *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 45
PKK Captures KDP Military Bases; Fighting Intensifies *[Voice of the People]* 45
TV Broadcast Development Plans Described *[ALIF BA' 28 Jun]* 45

ISRAEL

- Rabin: Red Lines Must Be Clarified Before Accord *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
- Rabin: Efrat Settlement To Remain Part of Nation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
- Jericho Closure Criticized, 'Slightly Eased' *[Jerusalem TV]* 49
- Knesset Plenum Discusses Security Situation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
- Expert on Implications of West Bank Withdrawal *[Milan L'ESPRESSO 4 Sep]* 49
- Likud Chairman: Oslo Agreement 'Not Binding' *[DAVAR 29 Aug]* 50
- Likud's Shoval: Labor Acquiescing to Syria *[Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE 26 Aug]* 51
- Labor's Svili on Peace Process: Likud 'Extremists' *[Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE 26 Aug]* 51
- Official Orders Inquiry Into Zo Artzenu Actions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52
- Statute of Limitations Expires for POW Murders *[Jerusalem TV]* 52
- Envoy to Israel Views Contacts, Options on POW's *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 20 Aug]* 52

JORDAN

- Minister Reportedly Expects Fall of Saddam Soon *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 28 Aug]* 54
- Husayn Kamil: Anti-Ekeus Remarks 'Out of Context' *[AFP]* 54
- Party Condemns 'Sudden Development' on Iraq *[AL-MAJD 28 Aug]* 55
- Columnist: 'No Change' in Policy Toward Iraq *[JORDAN TIMES 26 Aug]* 55
- Editorial Calls For Iraq To Heed King's Warnings *[JORDAN TIMES 26 Aug]* 56
- Air Force on High Alert Following Defections *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Aug]* 57
- Prime Minister Confers With Egypt's 'Amr Musa *[Amman Radio]* 57
- PLO Political Department Head Arrives in Amman *[Amman Radio]* 57
- Prince Hasan Confers With Israel's Peres *[Amman Radio]* 57
- Airport To Be Built With Israel in al-'Aqabah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 58
- Medical Cooperation Agreement Signed With Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 58
  - More Details of Agreement Given *[Amman Radio]* 58

LEBANON

- Iran Reportedly Halts 'Resistance' Financial Aid *[AL-SHIRA' 28 Aug]* 59
- Hizballah Leader Fadlallah on 'Resistance,' Peace *[AL-HADATH 30 Aug]* 59
- Informed Sources Detail Summit Talks With Syria *[MENA]* 61
- Buwayz: Israeli Attacks Adversely Affect Peace *[Beirut Radio]* 62

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Visiting Iranian Official Urges Afghan Unity *[IRNA]* 63
- Rabbani Addresses Cabinet, Discusses Profiteering *[Kabul Radio]* 63
- Government Forces Clear 3 Districts of Taleban *[Kabul Radio]* 63
- Taleban Reportedly Recaptures 'Strategic' Town *[AFP]* 63
- Islamic Army Troops Advance, Capture Rebel Base *[Kabul Radio]* 64
- Rebel Forces Announce Success in Oruzgan Province *[Message of Freedom]* 64

Bangladesh

- Malian President Konare Pays Official Visit 64
  - Holds Talks With President *[Dhaka Radio]* 64
  - Discusses Ties, 'Disasters' at Banquet *[Dhaka Radio]* 65
  - Emphasizes 'Partnership' Between Nations *[Dhaka Radio]* 66
  - Attends Aggreement Signing Ceremony *[Dhaka Radio]* 66
  - Appreciates 'Experiences' From Visit *[Dhaka Radio]* 66
  - Concludes Visit; Communique Issued *[Dhaka Radio]* 67
- Army Contingent Leaves To Join UN Protection Force *[Dhaka Radio]* 67
- Police Open Fire on Protesters; 7 Killed *[AFP]* 67

India

'Direct Contact' With Hostage Said Established *[AFP]* 68
U.S. Hostage Speaks to Authorities *[AFP]* 68
Moves To Save Hostages, Bhutto Connection Viewed *[JANSATTA 25 Aug]* 69
Official Denies Readiness To Join Nuclear Talks *[AFP]* 69
Kuwait Asks Rao To Aid Release of POW's in Iraq *[Delhi TV]* 70
Aircraft Pact Said Signed With PRC, South Korea *[Delhi Radio]* 70
Ammunition for 'Militants' Found; Chinese Markings *[Delhi Radio]* 70
Kashmir Council Elections Conclude; Protest Noted *[Delhi Radio]* 70
Punishment Assured for Guilty in Gandhi Murder *[Delhi Radio]* 70
Commission Criticizes Delhi Economic Policies *[INDIAN EXPRESS 20 Aug]* 71
Commentary Discusses High Growth Rate in Exports *[Delhi Radio]* 72

Iran

Nuclear Energy Official Denies Deal With Russia *[IRNA]* 73
Military Exercise Under Way in Kaseh Kabud Region *[Tehran Radio]* 73
Rafsanjani Praises Intelligence Ministry Personnel *[Tehran TV]* 73
Syrian Ambassador on 'Worrying' U.S. Presence in Gulf *[IRNA]* 74
Pakistani Chief of Army Staff Arrives in Tehran *[IRNA]* 74
Reza'i Meets With Pakistani Commander *[IRNA]* 74
Indian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives in Tehran *[IRNA]* 74
Velayati Holds Talks With Indian Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 75
Borujerdi, Haidar Discuss Joint Projects *[IRNA]* 75
Ministry Spokesman Rejects UN Human Rights Charges *[Tehran Radio]* 75
UN Report Seen Seeking Political Goals *[Tehran Radio]* 75
Velayati on Foreign Ministry Achievements Last Year *[IRNA]* 76
Unemployment, Government Responsibilities Viewed *[KEYHAN 18, 20, 22 Jul]* 76
Article on Southern, Southeastern Ports' Activities *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 12, 13 Jun]* 81
Minister: Steel Production To Reach 5 Million Tons *[IRNA]* 84
Export Statistics for First Quarter of Year *[IRNA]* 85
Jannati: Khomeyni's Will 'More Important' Than Law *[Tehran Radio]* 85

Nepal

Supreme Court Reinstates Disbanded Parliament *[AFP]* 86
Radio Views 'Landmark' Verdict *[Delhi Radio]* 87

Pakistan

Daily Views U.S. Responsibility To Improve Ties *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 23 Aug]* 87
President Talks With U.S. Senators on 'Arms Race' *[THE MUSLIM 28 Aug]* 88
Customs Requests Extradition of U.S. Drug Suspects *[THE NATION 29 Aug]* 88
Bhutto Returns From Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan Visits *[Islamabad Radio]* 89
Visit Seen as 'Extraordinary Success' *[JANG 27 Aug]* 89
Propects of Economic Ties With Kazakhstan Viewed *[THE FRONTIER POST 25 Aug]* 89
Official Reaffirms Commitment to 'Islamic Causes' *[Islamabad International]* 90
Minister Comments on Government-Altaf Group Talks *[Islamabad TV]* 90
Bhutto Assures 'Extra Mile' for Karachi Peace *[Islamabad Radio]* 90
Leader Condemns Indian Plans for Kashmir Elections *[Islamabad Radio]* 91
Spokesman, 'Observers' View Kashmir Arrests, Polls *[Islamabad Radio]* 91
Spokesman Voices 'Concern' Over Kashmir Situation *[Islamabad TV]* 91
Spokesman Rules Out Entry of Kashmir Kidnappers *[Islamabad Radio]* 91
Editorial Previews Visit by IMF Delegation *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 28 Aug]* 91

Inter-Arab Affairs

Israeli Attempt To Settle Palestinians Rejected

NC2608205595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sa'id Kamal, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, said today that Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan reject the Israeli attempts to settle Palestinian refugees in those countries.

At a news conference today, Sa'id Kamal said that the Arab League strongly opposes Israel's attempts to revise the resolution on the issue of Palestinian refugees at the coming session of the United Nations General Assembly. In this regard, he noted Israel's attempt to transfer the functions of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, UNRWA, to the Palestinian Authority with the objective of distancing the United Nations from this international issue.

The Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs announced that Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will chair meetings of the Arab foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UNGA session in October 1995 in order to coordinate Arab efforts regarding the issues on the UNGA agenda. This is pursuant to the Arabs' decision on this matter.

UN Failure To Halt Attacks on Lebanon Criticized

NC2708145995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League has criticized the UN Security Council, particularly its permanent members, for evading their responsibilities and international commitments and failing to halt the persistent Israeli aggression against south Lebanon and the western al-Biqa' or to pressure Israel to implement Resolution 425.

'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for international political affairs, said that Israel's assaults on towns and villages in south Lebanon, its destruction of civilian targets, and its indiscriminate killing of the area's inhabitants are part of a plan to ruin the peace process.

'Imran added that the Security Council's failure to shoulder its responsibilities betrays a double standard and indifference to Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory.

He pointed out that Israel exploits this international indifference to hinder the peace process. He explained that Israel succeeded in producing the current deadlock in the peace process by weakening the U.S. peace efforts and by excluding Europe and the United Nations from the peace process.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Concerned Over UN Withdrawal From Gorazde

LD2608165095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1534 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 26 Aug (SPA) — The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] expressed its concern over the UN decision on the withdrawal of peacekeeping forces from the city of Gorazde, which had been declared a UN safe haven, considering that this step would lead to a Serb attack on the area.

A statement issued by the OIC today said that though the Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid noted that the Western countries had committed themselves to defend Gorazde using NATO air power, he pointed out that the manner by which the protection of that city was to be achieved did not seem absolutely clear.

Algabid stressed, in this respect, the need for NATO to launch effective air strikes to repulse any Serb military attack on Gorazde. At the same time he called on the international community to guarantee the safety and protection of the civilian population.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Denounces Closure of Jerusalem Offices

JN2808165995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat today strongly denounced Israel's order to three Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem to close down. In a statement, 'Arafat said that those measures totally contravene the signed accords. He added that the three concerned institutions were established long before the arrival of the Palestinian Authority to the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Al-Husayni Berates Institutions' Closings

JN2908064595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GM 28 Bug 95

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA official in charge of the Jerusalem file, by Sarah Salamah on 28 August; place not given: from the "Panorama" program — recorded]

[FBI Translated Text] [al-Husayni] In fact, this Israeli measure today shows how much Israel is ready to give in to the right wing, no matter the cost. The decisions made today are the best excuses that could be given to the Palestinian skeptics and those who oppose the peace process. It is also the best encouragement to the Israeli right wing to call for more blows against the Palestinians, and consequently against the political peace process.

If things proceed along this course, we do not expect any conclusion of any agreements or the continuation of the negotiations although we are on the verge of completing the political process.

[Salamah] Brother Faysal al-Husayni, do you believe that this decision is a first step to closing down all the other Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem, including Orient House?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, we have such a feeling. If there is no clear and decisive stand on this issue, Israel might take such measures which only mean that this outlet for hope for the attainment of peace in the Middle East will be shut.

[Salamah] Brother Faysal al-Husayni, Israel justified this decision by saying the Oslo agreement signed with the PLO command bans Palestinian institutions from carrying out any activities in East Jerusalem. How true is this?

[Al-Husayni] The agreement stipulates that new Palestinian Authority [PA] institutions should be established in the Palestinian National Authority areas. Those institutions established before Oslo can continue to work. The institutions they spoke of were already there before Oslo and are not part of the Palestinian National Authority. They are institutions which have offered much and served the peace process, and consequently have served the National Authority but which are not part of the National Authority's apparatus.

[Salamah] Israel gave you four days to close the three institutions. In your opinion, what repercussions might take place if the closure takes place?

[Al-Husayni] All these institutions officially protested this measure. The affair is taking its due course on all levels, on the political level and on the level of the negotiations. If the Israelis pursue this policy, there will be an explosion. Matters deteriorated in Jericho today following the five-day closure. Palestinian masses attacked the Israeli roadblock. If Israel continues with this, it will be an explicit invitation to the Palestinians to adopt another course similar to that of the settlers.

'Arafat Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

JN2608142795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian Authority's Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting at the Presidential Office in Gaza today. The council discussed recent political developments as well as developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on implementing the second stage of the Declaration of Principles and other issues.

After the meeting, Minister of Trade and Industry Ahmad Quray' said that the Hebron issue is still a significant point of disagreement, noting that the overall agreement could be delayed if the Israeli stand on this issue does not change. Minister Quray' noted that the most important positive development in the negotiations is that the body of the agreement is now ready, including the points of agreement and disagreement.

Minister of Local Government Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin might hold a meeting in the week following the upcoming week of negotiations. 'Urayqat noted that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will continue tomorrow, hoping that all points of the agreement will be finalized. He added that the Council of Ministers discussed Israeli practices in Hebron and the killing of youths in cold blood. He said that the council also discussed the siege imposed on Jericho. Dr. 'Urayqat said that the Israeli side will be notified to halt such practices.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, stressed that the Hebron issue is not deferred until the negotiations on a final solution. He stressed the need for redeployment from it just like other cities in the West Bank. Dr. Sha'th hoped that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will overcome all obstacles during the next two weeks in order to sign the agreement. He said there is some progress in the negotiations, noting that the Palestinian delegation will exert every effort to overcome obstacles. Dr. Sha'th added that the council discussed Israeli violations against Palestinian establishments.

The Council of Ministers announced that winter hours will go into effect on 1 September.

More on Council Meeting

JN2608200495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1811 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat chaired the weekly meeting of the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] Council of Ministers in Gaza today. The meeting mainly discussed the current situation in Jerusalem.

The council called for an immediate halt to violations facing the holy places and the national establishments in the holy city, because these violations have dangerous effects on the current situation and the peace process.

President 'Arafat reviewed the most important topics discussed during the negotiations last week in Elat and all pending issues, such as Hebron, prisoners, and detainees. The president spoke about contacts held with a number of Israeli and international officials.

For his part, [Economy Minister] Ahmad Quray', alias 'Abu- 'Ala', explained the results of last week's Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. He briefed the PA Council of Ministers on the details of that round which realized some progress despite disagreements on a number of issues.

As for talks on progress concerning security and redeployment, President 'Arafat called for emphasizing his firm instructions on Hebron which should be treated like other cities, and asked the negotiating delegation to stick to this position.

The Council of Ministers emphasized the importance of the issue of prisoners and detainees which is a significant subject that should be resolved in the agreement on the transitional stage.

The council heard a report from the president and the negotiating delegation on the remaining issues in the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the need to include them in the agreement on the transitional stage. The council also stressed the importance of taking into consideration the remaining issues such as al-Mawasi and Erez areas in Gaza, the area of Jericho, and the Palestinian soldiers on the bridge.

For his part, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, briefed the Council of Ministers on the division of constituencies for the next presidential and legislative elections.

The council hailed the efforts made by the elections committee in the negotiations. The council will study the number of constituencies proposed by the committee.

In a statement to the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, Presidency Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the council decided that winter hours will take effect on the night of 1 September.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the Council of Ministers approved the retirement of a number of directors of education in Janin, Bethlehem, and Tulkarm.

The President secretary general said the president has issued a legal decision on beginning the initial work for construction of Gaza international airport. He said a Justice Ministry committee will supervise the legal issues related to the implementation of this decision.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the Council of Ministers has repeatedly urged the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to continue its activities as long as the refugee problem continues.

The PA Council of Ministers discussed a number of administrative and financial issues related to the development of administrative and financial work in the PA establishments.

Al-Rujub on Return to Elat, Closure, Extradition

TA2808113595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1025 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Security Service in Jericho, by Yoram Ronen; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] Shalom, Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Security Service.

[Al-Rujub] Shalom to you.

[Ronen] You are on your way to Elat.

[Al-Rujub] Yes, I am.

[Ronen] What happened this morning? Were you unable to leave Jericho for Elat because of the closure?

[Al-Rujub] Not because of the closure. I informed the DCO [District Coordination and Cooperation Offices] that I must join the Palestinian delegation in Elat on 27 August and that I needed a permit. Yesterday, I again asked for a permit, but at 1000 they told me that it was not certain that I would be able to go. As it happened, I only received the permit 30 minutes after somebody high up on the Israeli side intervened.

[Ronen] Was it Major General 'Uzi Dayan?

[Al-Rujub] Yes. Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray], head of the Palestinian delegation, and Abu-Anas [not further identified] talked to Uri Savir and 'Uzi Dayan, who intervened, I believe.

[Ronen] Did the Palestinians really threaten not to resume the talks if you did not get to Elat?

[Al-Rujub] We do not make peace or solve problems with threats. It is a matter of common sense: Since I am a Palestinian delegation member, the delegation cannot continue the talks as long as I am not permitted to rejoin it.

[Ronen] Jibril al-Rujub, are there other Palestinian delegates who are unable to get to Elat?

[Al-Rujub] No, I think I am the only Palestinian commander who always has a problem with travel permits.

[Ronen] Always?

[Al-Rujub] Almost always.

[Ronen] Why? Do they prohibit you from leaving?

[Al-Rujub] I do not know. Sometimes when I ask for a permit to travel to Gaza to see the chairman, they give me a permit from 1700 until 1900, but the permit is issued at 1730. You can draw your own conclusions.

[Ronen] Tell us now about the situation in Jericho, after several days of closure.

[Al-Rujub] The situation is extremely difficult. There is a shortage of milk and food, and there are medical problems. There are hard feelings against the Palestinian Authority [PA] and against Israel.

[Ronen] Do the residents of Jericho blame the PA for this tough situation?

[Al-Rujub] They blame us for conducting talks while the closure and hardship continue. This causes tension among the residents, and we understand it.

[Ronen] People are bitter.

[Al-Rujub] Of course they are, and justifiably so, I think.

[Ronen] You must have heard that some people said you convened a night court and came up with a verdict on the two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists in five minutes, sentencing them to seven and 12 years. Will they actually serve those prison terms?

[Al-Rujub] Listen, a sentence was meted out, and it was not my decision. We did what we had to do under the law and according to common sense. I think Hamas members should know the PA has jurisdiction [preceding word in English] here, and they should respect it. We have allowed and will allow freedom of speech and opinion, and if they feel they have to replace the PA, they can do so democratically, through elections.

[Ronen] You are plainly saying that you do not know how long they will remain in prison — that is, they may be released in a few months or weeks.

[Al-Rujub] No, no, it is not a matter of a few months. Listen, there are laws. It is not my decision. In Israel, Jordan, or anywhere, pardons are granted and terms are commuted for good behavior. These things are not for me to decide.

[Ronen] Do you mean that if they behave well, they may be released ahead of time?

[Al-Rujub] Listen, this is a political arrest, and perhaps if the situation changes, they will change their views, which will help them.

[Ronen] Do you customarily hold night courts and reach verdicts within minutes?

[Al-Rujub] I am not well versed in these matters. As head of the security service, I do not deal with legal matters.

[Ronen] What will you do if more Hamas members are captured in Jericho and Israel should seek their extradition or, at least, information on the serious attacks they were planning in Israel?

[Al-Rujub] Listen, the extradition request was a mistake on Israel's part. We are obliged to honor the agreement, however. We hope the Palestinian opposition will understand our sensitive position and avoid putting us in an awkward situation vis-a-vis Israel.

[Ronen] One last question: Do you believe a signing ceremony in Washington is possible by mid-September?

[Al-Rujub] I am absolutely certain the agreement will be signed in September. I wish us and the Israeli side the best. Both we and the Israeli side have no choice but to live in peace and coexistence. I think we have shed enough blood. There has been enough enmity, enough suffering on both sides.

[Ronen] Thank you very much, Jibril al-Rujub.

Hamas Leader: 'Palestine Is Purely Islamic Territory'

AU2908113095 Munich FOCUS in German 28 Aug 95 p 228

[Interview with Hamas leader Imad al-Faluji by Jacques Ungar; place and date not given: "Jews Yes — Israel No"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ungar] What are your feelings when Hamas activists kill themselves in suicide attacks?

[Al-Faluji] Feelings do not play any role; and Hamas does not kill for the sake of killing. Palestinians are still suffering because of Israel; and I can neither forget the daily provocations by the settlers, nor Israel's behavior in the West Bank or in Jerusalem, let alone our prisoners, who are hostages.

[Ungar] Why does Hamas stick to its violent course?

[Al-Faluji] The rights of our people are at stake. If we can achieve these without bloodshed, all the better.

Hamas was the first to launch peace initiatives, which Israel has always rejected.

[Ungar] What initiatives?

[Al-Faluji] They are more about a ceasefire than about peace. Israel has to clear the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, close the settlements, free the prisoners, and allow free elections.

[Ungar] Does that mean that you would agree to a Jewish state with West Jerusalem as capital?

[Al-Faluji] Recognition is not an issue, but the stability of the region is.

[Ungar] But there are Palestinians who recognize Israel.

[Al-Faluji] Nobody — not even those who signed the Oslo agreement — is prepared to renounce his rights.

[Ungar] Could you share your rights with Israel in Palestine?

[Al-Faluji] Palestine, from the Mediterranean to Jordan, has no room for Israel. The Jews do not have a right to the country. Israel was established on the ruins of our people. Palestine is purely Islamic territory. As long as Israel exists, there will be no stability.

[Ungar] Do you want to establish your state on the ruins of the Jewish state?

[Al-Faluji] Why? We do not have anything against the Jews as such, and enforcing our rights does not mean oppressing others. We need stability and coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians.

[Ungar] Does that mean that you recognize the Israeli state after all?

[Al-Faluji] Israel is a fact, but not a legal one.

[Ungar] Has the recent arrest of several Hamas members had an adverse effect on your organization?

[Al-Faluji] When Hamas founder Sheik Ahmad Yasin was arrested, everybody thought that we were finished. But we are dynamic and keep renewing ourselves.

[Ungar] 'Arafat has achieved progress in negotiations. Are you not frustrated by that?

[Al-Faluji] On the contrary. We want our people to judge the agreement itself, maybe in a referendum. But we will only take part in the autonomy elections, if they are free, without Israel making conditions, and without them being linked to the Oslo agreement. Chances for such elections are zero.

'Arafat Receives Russian Envoy's Credentials

JN2808185995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has received the credentials of Alexey Christyakov, Russia's envoy to the National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] areas. Alexey Christyakov will head the Russian mission in Gaza, which was inaugurated today. Thus, Russia will become the 10th state with a representation in the PA areas.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin Says al-Rujub Can Leave Jericho, Attend Talks

TA2808103595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Elat say the Palestinians are currently holding consultations on whether to appear for today's negotiations. Israeli delegation sources, however, told our political correspondent Udi Segal, that the Palestinians have not approached them with any demand to suspend the talks. This comes against the backdrop of a REUTER report that the Palestinians will not resume the negotiations until Israel permits Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Security Service in Jericho, to attend the talks. All this comes against the background of the extended closure on Jericho, which started last week.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said a short time ago that the Palestinians have no cause to suspend the talks. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] A short time ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reacted to the Palestinian criticism of Israel's intention to close down three Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem and the prolonged closure imposed on Jericho since last week. About one hour ago, a report was aired about the Palestinians' intention to suspend the Elat talks. We asked for Prime Minister Rabin's reaction:

[Rabin] Absolutely not, because they have no cause to delay anything relating to the talks. If they decide to suspend them, this is their problem.

[Segal] Sources in the Israeli delegation said they have not received any information from the Palestinians regarding the suspension of the talks. Reports from Elat indicate, however, that the Palestinians are conducting consultations which may result in the suspension of these talks. A REUTER report says that the Palestinians will not resume the talks until Jibril al-Rujub is permitted to leave Jericho for Elat. We asked Rabin to react to the reports that Israel is preventing al-Rujub from attending the talks:

[Rabin] First, the closure on Gaza in the past and on any other place is not automatic, which means that it does not apply to those people we recognize as having the need to travel, be it for humanitarian or other reasons.

[Segal] Does this mean that al-Rujub can leave Jericho?

[Rabin] Of course he can.

[Segal] Referring to the timing of the decision to close down the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem, Rabin says Israel is acting according to the law and the agreements:

[Rabin] We adhere to the agreement, which includes both our own and the other side's commitments. We are acting on the basis of the agreement and Israeli law.

[Segal] Israel is determined to close down the three Palestinian institutions while continuing the negotiations with the Palestinians in a bid to wrap up the interim arrangement negotiations by the end of the month and sign the accord in Washington by mid-September. [end recording]

'Some' Committees Resume Talks in Elat

TA2808154595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli-Palestinian talks have commenced for some of the committees in Elat. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the deliberations of the other committees did not resume because of differences of opinion over several issues.

Ahmad Quray' Comments on Elat Negotiations

NC2808080095 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', chief Palestinian negotiator and minister of economy in the Palestinian Authority, in Elat, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on 28 August from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Ahmad Quray', in light of the agreement on the transfer of powers signed in Cairo yesterday, can we say that the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles is imminent?

[Quray'] This agreement concerns early empowerment areas, which are added to the areas of early empowerment already transferred. This agreement is part of a package for the transfer of full power in 40 areas. We hope that by next week we will reach agreement on all these 40 areas, God willing. Therefore, the transfer of powers is part of the agreement, which consists of seven annexes. The most important of these annexes are the agreements on redeployment, security arrangements, elections, and the transfer of powers. They also include the legal annex, the cooperation annex, and the annex of the Cairo agreement concerning Gaza and Jericho. All these are components of the agreement currently being negotiated. God willing, this week will be the penultimate week in wrapping up this agreement in its entirety, an agreement that consists of about 266 pages. According to the U.S. secretary of state, this is a difficult and complicated agreement. Perhaps it is the most difficult and complicated agreement in the history of political and diplomatic work.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There are differences over Hebron, water, and other issues. How are the negotiations in Elat proceeding regarding these issues?

[Quray'] These points remain points of differences. Regarding the points of difference over Hebron, our stance is clear, legitimate, and correct. Our stance is that Hebron is a Palestinian town, like other Palestinian towns—like Gaza, Jericho, Nabulus, Janin, and Tulkarm. What applies to other towns should apply to Hebron. Redeployment in Hebron must take place as in other towns. We have agreed on complicated and exceptional arrangements in the areas [of Hebron] in which there are settlers. We have agreed on temporary arrangements in these areas. Regrettably, the Israeli stance is different. So there is still a wide gap between the two viewpoints.

Regarding the water issue, we have agreed for the first time on the initial definition or the recognition of Palestinian water rights. For the first time Israel has recognized these water rights. God willing, next week we will discuss the complementary measures for the water file. These include additional water for the Palestinian areas in the interim period, cooperation, increasing the water resources and protecting them from pollution. In addition, there is the issue of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. This is a vital and fundamental issue. We cannot ignore this issue at a time when we are opening a new chapter. There is a set of issues that is still the subject of differences. There are issues on which agreement has almost been reached.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Ahmad Quray', there was a specific date for signing the agreement in Washington. Is the date still valid?

[Quray'] There was no binding date for either of us. This is a negotiable issue, which might complicate other problems. But if there is goodwill, many problems might be solved quickly. Therefore, we cannot make the time factor, or accept that the time factor be, the sword of Damocles over such a sensitive, difficult, and complicated issue. We hope we will reach a preliminary agreement on 7 or 8 September and initial it in Cairo. We hope so. We are working hard toward this. We have spoken with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on this subject. We hope we will initial this agreement in Cairo at the end of the first week of September. As for the signing in Washington, if the agreement is reached, I believe the middle of September will be the appropriate date for signing the agreement.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Ahmad Quray', in light of the agreement signed in Cairo on the transfer of eight spheres of power and also in light of the Elat talks, what have you gleaned from the Israeli side and is there a seriousness on their part to implement the second part of the agreement between you and them?

[Quray'] It is difficult for me to give them the stamp of seriousness or lack of seriousness. But I say this is the second phase of the Principles agreement. They are not credited with trying to reach an agreement early. We are serious and want an early agreement because we want to stand on our land in the West Bank. We want our authority to establish a presence in the West Bank. So they are supposed to be eager to reach agreement. There are difficulties. There are difficulties on the ground and there are difficulties in the negotiations. We all seek to overcome them. We hope we will reach an agreement soon.

Says Talks' Halt To Protest Closure

JN2808163495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] For the sixth consecutive day, Israel today continues to close the roads leading to Jericho.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', stated that the Palestinian side suspended for a few hours the current negotiations with Israelis in Elat in protest of the Israeli siege imposed on the Jericho area.

'Urayqat Comments on al-Rujub, Permit Issue

JN2808110895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0950 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA official in charge of local government, by Yasir 'Atilah in Elat on 28 August from the "With the Midday Events" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Atilah] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, official in charge of local government in the Palestinian Authority [PA], we received reports that a Palestinian decision was made to suspend the negotiations temporarily. What is the reason for that decision?

['Urayqat] We are currently negotiating in Elat, and the Israeli authorities refused to issue a permit allowing Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security to travel to Elat. This is illogical. Al-Rujub is a member of the delegation to the security committee. God willing, this problem will be resolved as soon as possible.

['Atilah] A short while ago, we were in telephone contact with Col. al-Rujub, and he said that he will receive a permit within the next few minutes. Does this mean that if he receives the permit and is able to reach the negotiations site the negotiations will resume?

['Urayqat] Yes. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Adviser Rules Out Agreement by 7 Sep

NC2808180495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 28 Aug (MENA)—Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and spokesman, has ruled out the prospect that the Palestinian-Israeli interim agreement will be signed by the U.S.-set deadline of 7 September.

In an interview with MENA's Gaza correspondent, Abu-Rudaynah announced that there is no reason to sign as long as Israel clings to its position on Hebron. He noted that if there is no U.S. pressure on Israel in connection with this issue, no agreement will be signed.

He pointed out that Israel has not adhered to earlier agreements and that the agreement signed in Cairo on the handover of eight powers to the Palestinian Authority is actually an old one which should have been implemented in June along with the release of 1,700 Palestinian detainees and the handover of a safe passage between Gaza and Jericho in line with the Israeli prime minister's promise. Abu-Rudaynah said that the Israelis procrastinated on this matter and nothing was done at all after the Beit Lid operation [attack on Israeli troops at a bus stop] in June.

Abu-Rudaynah announced that Israel's five-day old closure of Jericho is unjustified, noting that the Israeli foreign and justice ministers have expressed a similar view. He added that it appears there is more than one government in Israel.

Commenting on the progress in the negotiations, Abu-Rudaynah said that the issues of Hebron and the detainees continue to be an obstacle impeding the negotiations. He explained that no progress has been made on these two issues so far.

'Arafat's adviser remarked that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are moving too slowly and said: Apparently they want to leave these two issues for 'Arafat and Rabin to discuss at their next meeting, for which a date has not yet been set.

He noted that the Israeli Government continues to procrastinate and has not yet made a political decision to withdraw from the West Bank.

Abu-Rudaynah declared that it is not logical to impose extensive security arrangements on Hebron, a city with 160,000 Palestinian inhabitants, simply because 47 Jewish families live there. He added that it is also illogical for the Palestinian elections to be held while the occupation continues.

He said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had promised to transfer these families to the Qiryat Arba' settlement but later retracted his promise. Abu-Rudaynah said that the Israelis wish to keep the 47 Jewish families in Hebron as an excuse for their continued interference in the Palestinian territories and as an obstacle to progress in the negotiations.

Egypt

Musa Interviewed on Regional, Arab Issues

MM2508150095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Sawsan Abu Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you envisage the relationship between Egyptian foreign policy as a thinking framework for Egyptian activity in the external field and Egyptian diplomacy as a tool for the implementation of this policy?

[Musa] This relationship is not only close but organic. For political thinking cannot achieve any results without the diplomacy that represents it. So if the thinking and the implementation become integrally united, then there will be a logic, a framework, and a movement.

The entire Egyptian political thinking consists of specific fundamentals, that is, an Arab framework that has existed for scores of years and that will remain constant. Any vacillation, hesitation, or doubting in it will cause the one who entertains such doubts lose the thread whereby he can watch and understand Egyptian policy.

The framework and the starting point of Egyptian policy are both Arab, with regard to the Middle East. There are also other starting points such as the African starting point and its conditions, the Third World starting point and its movements, and the Islamic starting point and its stances. Now there is a new starting point, namely, the Mediterranean-European starting point, and there is also the world starting point.

All these starting points are intertwined, and they have their own practical interpretations. With regard to the Arab situation, for example, we are working on the activation of the Damascus Declaration, which has faltered at some point. We said then that things would not be achieved in this manner. It is necessary to activate this declaration and to make moves so that it becomes a basis for new hope. This is the first.

Secondly: Our attitude toward the Arab League, specifically at this time, is that it should be a framework and a base which it is not right to concede, just as it is not right to concede any of the existing Arab groupings. This is because there is a problem pertaining to the Arab world, within the framework and amid the welter of the new developments. Should it [the Arab World] be lost, crumble, and move into another framework called Middle Easternism? In other words, there would no longer be an Arab identity, Arab integration and reconciliation, Arab cooperation, Arab solidarity, Arab coordination, or Arab consultation.

We uphold all these, because the Arab entity and world must continue to exist even with the existence of Middle Easternism, and act as a counter to for it. I do not mean counter in the sense of collision, but in the sense of the emergence of a new theory called Middle Easternism, which is not fully compatible with the current conditions.

This relates to our policy in the Arab field; that is, the Arab League, Arab grouping, Arab reconciliation, and Arab consultation and cooperation.

As to the problem we had with Israel over its nuclear program, this showed that there is a minimum limit of Arab solidarity and consultation that can be achieved, as is evident from the fact that when the matter ended in the convocation of the conference for the extension of operation of the agreement banning nuclear weapons proliferation, 105 countries acceded but not a single one of them was Arab. Although some of them [the Arab countries] showed some reluctance, all of them preferred to stand in one rank, and thus they proved that minimum limits were being drawn [for inter-Arab cooperation] and should not be conceded...this is a specific way of thinking and it has clear applications.

In the African sphere, an attempt is being made to do something and to save whatever can possibly be saved. The situation in Africa is much worse than the Arab situation. We have supported the idea of the establishment of a mechanism for resolving African conflicts and embarking on peacekeeping operations. We adopted a resolution to this effect at the African summit conference which was held here in Cairo. Thus the idea of saving the African situation has its own practical interpretation which lies in the creation of specific mechanisms and the following of a specific course.

With regard to the Third World, let us convene [possibly a misprint which should read "we have called for the convocation of"] a conference of the nonaligned foreign ministers. Four years prior to that, and after the end of the cold war, we said that a "Third World Movement" should be created, because the Nonaligned Movement was a general and essential expression but its role has expired. So what should we do now? We conceived of the creation of the Third World Movement through the merger of the Group of 77 and the Nonaligned Movement into a movement that would comprise all the developing countries. But there was opposition to this idea on the grounds that the Nonaligned Movement was still there, so why merge it?

We as an Egyptian diplomacy interpret this political thinking. We said that we were the authors of this proposition, but we must not allow it to dominate us.

When the Nonaligned Movement held its conference in India, we put forward all the issues at a meeting in which all foreign ministers took part and reached the decision to keep the Nonaligned Movement and make it represent the interests of all the Third World countries and ensure that there would be an organic coordination between it and the Group of 77 in the various economic aspects, even if this latter group did not perform any role. For we — at the level of the Third World — have decided that there was no reason for the abolition of any of the existing groupings and that we should activate them and increase their dynamism.

We were behind the decision that Colombia should assume chairmanship of the next term of the movement, despite the opposition of some countries, as it was not possible to deny the existence of something called the Third World. For it exists and it has its interests. The fact that the transfer of the movement's chairmanship to Latin America was not done via Cuba, but via another country [Colombia] proves that the Third World still has its effectiveness and spirit. Also, the Third World is an existing reality, that it is not part of the First World either economically, ideologically, or politically and that there has only been a rapprochement with the Third World countries which are situated in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This was an Egyptian idea and application.

On the Islamic level, solidarity has developed as a result of a specific problem, namely the Bosnian problem. True, there was the Jerusalem [question], but that is an old problem, all talk about it is only repetitive and the positions toward it are well-known. But the Bosnian question has raised new positions and challenges. We cannot enter the war in Bosnia. But we could take a strong political stance. The result we reached was the resolution we adopted recently at Geneva. We called for the adoption of a clear and categorical position toward the UN Security Council resolution on the Bosnian arms embargo. We were, at least, in the forefront of the countries that insisted on this matter and which refused to recognize this resolution. Thus, we have succeeded in protecting and activating Islamic solidarity.

With regard to Europe, there is a new Middle East policy. We have called for the establishment of a Mediterranean gathering and we have established it and held three meetings which were attended by all ministers...the first meeting was held in Alexandria last year. There is now a Mediterranean policy of cooperation.

From all this, you can see that Egyptian diplomacy works actively and is not only one of mere thoughts and phrases, slogans and [empty] theorization. It is one of theorization based on practical steps, whether in regard to the Arab world, as I have already explained, as well as when President Mubarak raised the question of an Arab Charter of Honor, which means that we want Arab reconciliation and Arab change [sentence as published]. The Arab League has transformed this demand into a resolution, which will be submitted for discussion at its ministerial council next month.

Some of our stances might be weak. But we formulate stances, and we implement them as far as we can in all fields. If there appears to be some weakness or hesitation, it is because the foundation of the Third World is shaky, and because the current offensive [not further specified] affects all the world countries economically and politically and in all other fields.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In the sixties, Egyptian diplomacy witnessed a golden age in the Third World, then in the seventies, after the war, it witnessed a recession and concentration on the question of peace. It became embroiled in an Arab crisis followed by a period of isolation. Now it is playing a role in the peace process and Arab reconciliation and the building of the Third World. Is Egyptian diplomacy now capable of shouldering all the objectives of Egyptian policy? Or are there some phenomena that tie its hands occasionally in the Arab spheres, for economic reasons or by virtue of the need for economic aid, with the economy becoming the prime mover of the country's policy?

[Musa] Each era has its facts, which affect the drawing up and implementation of policies. The sixties were the era of the liquidation of imperialism. There was a huge wave directed toward this objective. Egypt headed this campaign, and 'Abd-al-Nasir played a great role in this regard. Furthermore, the features of the era were clear, that is, there was the East and there was the West, and there was imperialism and there was liberation. But now the situation has totally changed. The Cold War has ended and matters became muddled, and the current priorities differ from those of the sixties. For there are no longer wars of liberation and liquidation of imperialism. The economy used to be based on either socialist or capitalist bases. Today, socialism no longer exists.

Thus the facts that existed in the sixties are no longer there. There are no longer two poles, or East and West. What we have now is one pole only, and then there is North and South. We in the South have become a principal party in this. So should we steer our policy along the road of confrontation, at a time when we are in need of aid and the transfer of technology? Or should we draw specific lines that would enable us to get out of the economic and development impasse in which all the

Third World countries throughout the three continents (Asia, Africa, and Latin America) find themselves now?

True, the need for aid constitutes a shackle. But this does not apply to Egypt alone, but to all the Third World countries, poor as well as rich. For all of them need help...the rich are in need of technology and the poor are in need of development. Egypt is neither rich nor poor. It has sufficient cadres to place it at the top of the Third World countries. We have educational and scientific capabilities and we have plans and infrastructures in all fields. But Egypt is in need of funds. The Third World countries, including Egypt, are not the only ones in need of help. Even some countries of the Second World have become so also, such as Russia and the East European countries. This fettering means that international policy has its conditions and requisites and imposes restrictions on all countries, and not only on Egypt.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The talk of these restrictions brings to mind one question which pertains to comparison between one restriction and another.

[Musa] It is assumed that Russia was restricted by the economic element in its movement in the international arena. But it is still struggling to emerge as a great power. This is evident from its attempts to create for itself a sphere of influence in Serbia and the Balkans in southern Europe.

If we were to view Egyptian policy toward Bosnia from this perspective, is it fettered by the experience derived from the giving of support to the mujahidin in Afghanistan, which resulted in the encouragement and proliferation of extremism and fundamentalism, so that Egypt is trying to tackle the Bosnian question in a different manner, so that nothing similar would happen again?

The saying goes: "History repeats itself." But this is not true in an absolute manner. It is not necessary that this should happen again. For the conditions in Bosnia are unlike those in Afghanistan, although the general framework seems similar. The two questions are not similar, because the war in Bosnia is not a religious war and was not depicted in the way the Afghanistan war was depicted.

In the case of the war in Afghanistan, there was a superpower behind it (the United States) and it depicted the war on the basis that the USSR was an atheist country and consequently the war was a holy war against it. But the situation in Bosnia is different. True, it has a religious connotation or dimension, but it is not the complete or only connotation. The geographical framework in Europe differs from that of Asia, where Afghanistan is adjoined by Russia, Iran, and Pakistan. There are also UN resolutions, 86 in number. Some of these resolutions provided for placing certain zones under UN protection, which in other words was a call for reassurance, because these zones were under the patronage of the United Nations which would defend them. Such a thing did not exist in Afghanistan. So the United Nations was expected to do in Bosnia what the others [the countries which supported the Afghan mujahidin] had to do in Afghanistan. But the United Nations has failed to perform this task. So we acted after realizing for sure that the United Nations was unable to confront this current. We did so on the basis of the premise that we cannot deprive the Bosnian people of their right to self-defense.

The Bosnians have told us and others: We do not lack men and fighters, because we can manage this by ourselves. What we need is money, arms, food, and medical help. Now the Islamic world is ready to meet these needs. Thus there is a difference between the Afghan arena and the Bosnian arena. There might be similarity from the point of view of form and theory, but not from the point of view of facts and practice.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But Iran has been backing them by sending Islamic volunteers and militias there?

[Musa] True. Since the United Nations has failed to perform its duty, then we owe it to the Bosnian people to provide them with the arms for self-defense, and they have the right to ask for the lifting of the embargo and for assistance from whoever wishes to give it. We cannot blame anyone. But had the United Nations performed its duty and had the Western powers truthfully carried out the UN Security Council resolutions, we would not be in the state we find ourselves in now. But to have the situation managed in such a bad way and then come and say that Iran or any other country has been doing this and that, is something which we cannot get involved in. For there is a people struggling and fighting its last battle, and helping it is a duty and it has the right to ally itself with whoever it wishes.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do not you think that it is unfair to blame the United Nations, when it consists of members and cannot act except through the movement of these member states? Do you agree that there is a European plot to destroy any Muslim state in Europe? Is there any fear of Balkanization and expansion of the sphere of war there?

[Musa] Oddly enough, their fears of Balkanization and the expansion of the war have led them to pursue a policy which will lead to precisely what they are afraid of. When we say that the United Nations has failed, this means that the big powers have failed and not the UN secretary general. What is meant by the United Nations is the Security Council, which adopted resolutions that were not respected by those who made them.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Let us now move to the expression "the new world order." Is there really a new world order? Does this unitary system constitute an order? Or would any order or disorder would be considered an order in the absence of any order?

[Musa] This is completely true. There is a new world situation and not a new world order. This is because the old foundations are still as they were. The UN Charter is still the main document governing world behavior, the United Nations is still the main international organization which comprises the world countries, the international economy is still based on "Bretton Woods," NATO is still the biggest military alliance in the world, the political alliances are still the same, and there is the West and the East. And although the East has been getting closer to the West, yet they are still East and West.

The problems that existed there are unchanged, be they in Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, or Europe and be they social or political. Some of them might be on the way to resolution: There is no apartheid in South Africa now, the Palestinians are talking to the Israelis and Israel is negotiating with Syria. But we have not yet moved from the stage of successive clashes in several continents to the stage of comprehensive peace. For this reason, I do not say that there is a new order, but that there is a new situation. The legal bases of the pre-Cold War or post-Cold War international order have not changed.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] When there were two poles in the world, there was some sort of balance, which left a margin for some movement. How can it be said now that the United States shall be the sole just arbiter?

[Musa] This question is now under discussion at every place and at every forum: Can the United States, being the only superpower, be just in respect of everything or be the arbiter in every dispute? Where do its interests lie in all this? These are topics under discussion now and there are numerous doubts looming over them, even among the Europeans. As this subject is still under discussion, I cannot reply to your question about it now. Some views state that the old order — the international balance — was better for the developing countries. Other views say that the world has developed and that we must do our best to secure the best interests and best results from the new situation.

We cannot retrieve the old order. Before us, there is a new order to which we have to adapt ourselves and with which we have to coexist and benefit from. The important thing is for us to realize our independence within that framework.

Egypt has done so by adopting clear positions in respect of post-Cold War major international issues such as the indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This position constitutes the first test [for Egypt] in the field of international policy.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Egyptian policy is accused of retracting from its firm demands in this regard. What do you say to that?

[Musa] No, nothing of the sort has happened. The Egyptian demands were as follows: There is an Israeli nuclear program toward which there is an international silence. As we are now coming upon a stage of new arrangements in the Middle East, this silence should not be continued, hence the raising of the issue.

Secondly: At that particular time, an international plan was put forward for the indefinite extension of the treaty. Our reply was that we cannot agree to an indefinite extension, as long as Israel has failed to join the treaty, and unless it does so, we will not support the indefinite extension. We have maintained this attitude of ours to this day.

On the other hand, Egypt cannot declare war on the whole world and demand the stopping of the indefinite extension, because there are international forces which want this indefinite extension. But we, in solidarity with all the regional forces in the Middle East, from Morocco to the Gulf, adopted a clear and unified attitude, namely, not to agree to the indefinite extension. All the Arab countries have remained outside the framework of approval.

Thirdly: With regard to the multilateral negotiations, there is a committee concerned with arms control and security, through which regional cooperation in this field can be discussed. But this would not be possible unless Israel takes a step in regard to the Israeli nuclear program.

The indefinite extension has taken place and was adopted by a majority of votes. It provided for a review of the treaty every five years. We have accepted this legal position that was imposed by the majority. Our position does not mean that we will enter a nuclear race, for this would be an unwise view in the present conditions. What we said was that we will not enter into any arrangements concerning this region unless Israel agrees to the establishment of a zone free of mass-destruction weapons in the Middle East. Furthermore, no regional security or political arrangements can be reached in the region unless understanding is reached on this question.

Hence, there should be no talk of retraction from the Egyptian position on this matter. Furthermore, the conflict with Israel does not mean that there is a likelihood of collision with it, but rather an attempt to persuade it that — with the prevalence of peace conditions — it will not be in need of any nuclear power, particularly at a time when others are being prevented from dealing with nuclear power in a peaceful framework. Israel's justifying its position by claiming fear of Iranian and Pakistani nuclear projects is unacceptable. Because it is unfair to prevent others from developing a peaceful nuclear program while Israel has a military program. We are against all military nuclear programs be they of Israel or of any other country.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Within the framework of the idea of the new world order, I recently met with the American ambassador to one of the Arab countries and we talked about the structure of regional relations in the Arab region, on the basis that the small nations are extending lines to the major powers and through them to the superpowers in a manner compatible with the traditional leadership hierarchy. His opinion was that the American attitude is to establish hot lines with all countries. Will the establishment of hot lines with all the small and big powers, in the absence of inter-Arab reconciliation, lead to stability in the region?

[Musa] We cannot blame the United States for establishing lines with all countries, because one of the characteristics of the age of science and technology is that lines are open between every city and every other and between every state and every other, and no control can be imposed on these communications. But, what is wanted is an agreed Arab minimum limit, for the sake of the preservation of our identity and common interests, as we ourselves decide on them, with a superpower with huge economic capabilities and strategic interests such as the United States.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] This leads us to the question of Arab groupings which have proven their importance and the need for their preservation. Let us begin with the grouping that is closest to Egypt, namely, the Arab Cooperation Council. If we were to look upon it from a historical point of view, because it is easier to judge events after they have taken place, was Egypt's participation in establishing this council and joining it a mistake?

[Musa] It was not a mistake. As President Mubarak has stated, joining the council and continuing with it should be based on a true knowledge of the intentions of everyone and should be moving toward the same Arab objectives, and not toward what would negatively affect these objectives...there was something wrong with the infrastructure of this grouping and the objectives it set for its direction. It was assumed to be alongside the Arab League, the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], and the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] and should contribute to the pot of Arab solidarity. But when it transpired that it had some negative aspects, particularly following the invasion of Kuwait, it had to be reviewed.

We feel now that it is necessary to preserve any Arab gathering or grouping. We are members of the Damascus Declaration, which consists of the Gulf countries and Syria and Egypt. We are also working on having some sort of contact with the AMU in our capacity as a North African country.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is the Damascus Declaration considered some sort of a security arrangement or a political grouping?

[Musa] It is an Arab political grouping, under the umbrella of the Arab League and the Joint Defense Treaty. Thus, it is a grouping inside the Arab family. It must be preserved and given an objective that produces positive results. The document we agreed upon provisionally during our meeting at Bahrain constitutes a positive step toward the activation of the Damascus Declaration in the political, economic, and security fields.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You have stated that the efforts to activate the Damascus Declaration have met with some resistance. At some past stage, the Egyptians used to say: When the Arabs need us they ask for our support, and when they do not want us, they suspend this declaration. Is this true?

[Musa] The Arab world abounds with positive forces as well as with negative forces. What I want to say now is that the positive aspects have triumphed in the Damascus Declaration at present as it moves toward the activation of cooperation between the countries signatory to it as well as within the framework of the Arab League. This is because in any way, the effectiveness, present and future, of the Arab League should not be harmed.

The Arab League is needed today more than at any time past and will be needed more still in the future. So the Arab League should activate its existence and should lead the process of inter-Arab solidarity and integrity and effective action. I believe that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid [Arab League secretary general] has been working according to this plan during his tours.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is the Arab League qualified to shoulder all these tasks?

[Musa] The Arab League consists of its member countries. If the Arab League were to fail, this does not mean that 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was the one who failed but rather its members. There is a growing awareness now of the fact that we all stand in one rank. So the Arab identity must be preserved and the Arab interests must be placed above all other considerations. The situation demands now: To be or not to be.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Some have depicted the Damascus Declaration as a military bolstering of the Gulf countries by Egyptian-Syrian forces, vis-a-vis Iran, in the absence of Iraq. This leads us to ask about some specific axes in national Egyptian security. Has there been any affirmation to the contrary?

[Musa] The Damascus Declaration is certainly not a military alliance, it is not an Arab NATO. It is a political grouping with political, economic, security, and social objectives. As to the security aspect in its precise meaning, that is not on at present. It is neither a condition nor is it imperative that the Damascus Declaration should be directed against any specific state, for there is the Joint Arab Defense Treaty, which should be the basis [for such defense].

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] With regard to Egyptian security, some thinkers have tried to depict four non-Arab countries, namely Turkey, Israel, Iran, and Ethiopia, as relatively the stronger powers which could be a source of threat as well as a source of support [for Egyptian security]. What do you think?

[Musa] They should not be a source of threat. Now Israel is involved in a peace plan with the Arabs, and so this plan should end with a positive result leading to a solution of the Palestine question and Israel's withdrawal from Syria and Lebanon and the signing of peace treaties, and the Arab-Israeli problem would come to an end. In such a case, it would not be right to look upon Israel in the way it used to be looked upon prior to this operation.

As to Turkey, Iran, and Ethiopia, they should not necessarily be countries of confrontation or hostility. On the contrary, they should be friendly countries, because we are bound to them by numerous ties. For we have [common] interests with Ethiopia, with it and with other countries of the Horn of Africa. They are the countries of the sources of the Nile. Besides, the countries of the Horn are not far away from the Middle East, and there is integration between the two regions and consequently relations should exist between them.

It is true that there are political conflicts with Iran, but they should not be difficult to resolve. Likewise, there should be no reason for conflicts with Turkey, as cooperation is likely to be predominant over the relations with everyone.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Let us move now to talking about the peace process and the Egyptian role in it. How important do you reckon the Egyptian role is now that lines of direct political communication have been opened, and to what extent is there still a need for the Egyptian role?

[Musa] The Egyptian role is there because it is essential. The Palestinian side is the weakest in the equation, and our role is to give great effect to the Palestinian role so that it may be able to negotiate from a position of strength. The Egyptian role will not stop because it is not dependent on the wishes of this or that side. The matter stems from Arab needs in the peace process. So it is in our hands and in the hands of the Palestinians.

With regard to the Arab world, the presence of the Egyptian role is reassuring, because it bolsters Arab rights. We have said on more than one occasion that we are not intermediaries. We are an Arab country and stand in the Arab ranks. But this does not mean that we take a hostile attitude toward Israel, because there are bases through which we negotiate. The principle of land for peace has been accepted. But we want to activate this principle as well as the right of self-determination, the Palestinians' retrieval of their lands, and the establishment of their state. All these points have been agreed upon. Autonomous rule in Gaza and Jericho has been the start. We are now working for this through persuasion and heavyweight political action and with all the power we can muster as well as with pressure occasionally, though I do not like to use this word because of the provocation it inspires. So when the Palestinian side rejects or accepts any proposition it would have an Arab power supporting its stances.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are these Arab forces present now, as they were not present in the past in the days of al-Sadat, who went alone to Jerusalem?

[Musa] The Egyptian political movement was not understood at the time. But now the dimensions of the Egyptian move have become better understood within the framework of the Arab political movement and all have entered the peace process. Al-Sadat's visit was somewhat premature, yet it has borne fruit and has become a good example, in the sense that we can retrieve our lands and our rights if we enter the peace process. The Egyptian policy has become understood and acceptable, indeed, demanded.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It has been noticed from some of the Israeli documents that have been revealed and some of the statements made by flexible and inflexible Israeli officers, that they did not deny that Egypt still poses a threat to Israel. Does this mean a detraction from the importance of the peace process or some sort of indirect pressure brought to bear on Israel to establish peace and thus rid itself of the Egyptian threat? Or is it that Israel has not yet abandoned its feeling of insecurity, even with regard to Egypt, despite the passage of 15 years of the peace between the two countries?

[Musa] The Israelis must develop their way of thinking and look upon matters with a more confident eye. For you cannot enter into a peace process while suspecting every morning that something could be taking place behind your back, otherwise we will return to the state we were in. Israel is called upon now to look upon peace as a future and as a matter that will inevitably take place. It must live with the Arab environment and establish peace with it.

As to its feeling of danger from here or there, this is a matter that concerns it itself. But we asked them to feel reassured and also to make us feel reassured. If they are afraid of something, then we say that we Arabs also have things to be afraid of. But nothing will resolve the problems other than a just solution that instills reassurance in both sides about their security apprehensions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In the light of what has so far been achieved in the peace process, do you feel that Israel is serious about the peace process, and that the statements that are uttered every now and then were some sort of bargaining aimed at securing better conditions under the canopy of Israeli plurality?

[Musa] Anything is possible. But what is certain is that the present Israeli Government is proceeding with the peace process, and is trying — as much as it can — to achieve a peaceful conclusion. As to it being the aim of Israeli negotiation to make more gain than the Arab side from the peace process, our reply would be that the fruits must be equal to both sides. We will not give the Israelis more than what is due to them, and we will not stop asking for what is due to us. The Israelis must realize that there are principles which should be respected: land for peace, security for security, right for right, commitment for commitment. We are not involved in an Israeli peace process but in an Israeli-Arab peace process. This same basis should be the basis for the bilateral negotiations with Syria and Lebanon as well.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Let us now turn to the Libyan question and the Lockerbie crisis. What efforts has Egypt been exerting in this regard and how effective have these efforts been?

[Musa] Numerous efforts have been exerted and they were made at the highest levels by President Mubarak and Egyptian diplomacy...for Libya is an Arab country and its interests are important to us. The charges made against two Arab citizens of perpetrating the sinister operation of the blowing up of the plane are grave charges, because no self-respecting Arab side should involve itself in such matters.

We support the trial of these two persons. The Libyans have moved and expressed their readiness to have the two accused put on trial provided that the trial takes place in a third country. In the past, the Libyans had refused to hand them over. So this is tangible progress. Libya's connection with terrorism has become a thing of the past. No charges are any longer being leveled against Libya accusing it of having chemical [weapons] factories. What concerns us now is to see that the Libyan people do not suffer more than they already have suffered. The time has come for resolving this question through acceptance of the Libyan proposition.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you think that Britain, France, and the United States are cruelly arbitrary in regard to this matter?

[Musa] What I see is that these three countries are called upon to act seriously now with regard to the trial of the accused. It is necessary for them to be tried, so that if convicted, they would be punished or if it is proven that they were not involved, they would be acquitted. Keeping the matter hanging endlessly does not serve anyone's interests.

There is no need to describe what is taking place as arbitrary or otherwise, for what concerns us is to act politically and to serve the issue as much as possible without the use of specific descriptions, which might harm the role of attempting to bring the two sides closer.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Arab reconciliation is now on the cards and efforts are being exerted to realize this reconciliation following the rift that developed as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. What is Egypt's role in this regard? What is Egypt's attitude toward Iraq in this respect?

[Musa] Arab reconciliation is essential and it is undoubtedly coming. Egypt feels that leaving the Arab situation as it is will only cause harm. However, everything has its season and we must be very careful in our steps, because the situation resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has left severe bitterness in the hearts of many, which make the reconciliation operation harder. For this reason, reconciliation should be carried out in a calm gradual manner but with determination and diligence.

The responsibility rests not only with the Arab countries which opposed the invasion but also with Iraq.

The question is not just one of Arab reconciliation, but goes beyond it to the question of Arab lands. There are now Arab lands being threatened, such as those in northern Iraq, in southern Sudan, and in some other places. The issue has become much bigger than mere conflicts between Arab regimes or Arab governments.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will this lead to a speedy rapprochement and the resolution of pending issues, or would that be rather rash, as some people say?

[Musa] Firstly, their must be a realization of the gravity of the present stage and consideration should be taken of the fact that bitterness still lurks in the hearts of those Arabs who were victims of the aggression. The Kuwaitis cannot be blamed for feeling bitter and so they need to be reassured, a matter which requires wisdom and a calm process so that we may cross this stage, since the matter is not one of emotions and slogans.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] With regard to Egypt's attitude toward the AMU, it is being said that with the collapse of the Arab Cooperation Council, Egypt began to feel a need for searching for another regional body to join. How true is this?

[Musa] It is not true. For in practice we are a party to the Damascus Declaration, which is alive and which comprises eight countries. Then there is the bigger body of the Arab League. The point is that we are one of the countries of North Africa and our country adjoins the AMU, and that requires us to be in contact with it, because we are the connecting link between AMU and the eastern movements within the Arab framework, which is a matter of importance, because it has positive repercussions within the framework of Mediterranean politics and Arab-European relations.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But you previously denied that Egypt had asked to join the AMU. Is that not so?

[Musa] We have only asked for observer status in the AMU.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will this give Egypt the opportunity to strengthen its role as a connecting link between the Arab East and the Maghreb?

[Musa] Why not? What is needed is that we should have greater links with the Arab Maghreb. Relations between Egypt and the countries of the AMU are now expanding and growing and this demands that we increase our interaction with these Arab countries.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Can any Arab grouping have observer status in other Arab groupings?

[Musa] This would be beneficial. Arab groupings should be open to each other. The status of observer would enable a country like Egypt to keep in touch with the activities that take place in the remaining North African countries, so that it may benefit and so that it may give benefit. All these relations contribute to the melting pot of Arab interests and take place under the umbrella of the Arab League.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The following question might have a historical background. It was noticed during the Yemeni crisis and the recent war [in Yemen] that Egypt acted with extreme caution, which some said was due to its experience in the sixties [when 'Abd-al-Nasir sent troops to Yemen]. Others said that this caution had two other reasons, namely, not to interfere in the affairs of another Arab country and not to participate in the breaking up of a unity, because the idea of unity constitutes one factor in the legitimacy of any regime in any Arab country. What would you say to that?

[Musa] We cannot get involved in opposing any Arab unity, and specifically Yemeni unity, because it is only natural for Yemen to be united. In the heat of the Yemeni crisis between the North and the South, Egypt did not do anything to help break the unity, for this unity exists and must continue, because it constitutes an entry in the column of bolstering Arab action.

Furthermore, how can we talk of Arab reconciliation and Arab solidarity while we accept the breakup of an Arab state, be it Yemen or any other state for that matter. The same applies to Sudan and Iraq.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Some of the parties concerned have stated that at the beginning Egypt supported South Yemen, but later retracted. Did anything of the sort take place?

[Musa] There is a difference between supporting the South or the North and between supporting the secession of the South from the North. To have a specific point of view in regard to a conflict within an Arab state is one thing and to work for the breakup of unity is another. This is something Egypt has not done at all. Indeed, we have tried to reconcile [the two sides]. Under Secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry Ambassador Badr Hammam spent more time in Yemen than in Egypt during the crisis, to calm down the situation. We used to meet with leaders of the South — as being part of Yemen — and they used to complain bitterly about what was happening, and the same applies to the leaders of the North.

We used to call for reconciliation, pointing out that there was no reason for war. For we were against the war and we have never stood against unity, and [we were against] all that detracts from it. [Yemeni] President 'Ali Abdallah Salih visited Egypt twice during the war and he visited Egypt two weeks ago as well. This proves the positive character of Egyptian-Yemeni relations. I visited Yemen about a month ago, to affirm the bonds that exist between Egypt and Yemen, and also to affirm our desire to give a boost to Egyptian-Yemeni cooperation. The Joint [Egyptian-Yemeni] Higher Committee will be meeting shortly under the chairmanship of the prime ministers of both countries.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] With regard to the security dimension in relations between Egypt and Yemen and the talk about terrorism and the existence of military training camps there, has this matter been raised during your contacts? Furthermore, when the Yemeni president visited Egypt, it was said that he expressed his readiness to hand over terrorists to Egypt, if the latter in turn hands over to Yemen those wanted by it. Does this mean an implicit recognition that such things do really exist?

[Musa] Any measures any Arab country takes to bolster the security of its society are its right and anything leading to such bolstering is acceptable.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] This too is an acceptable diplomatic answer. Let us now move to the question of Sudan and the repercussions of the crisis which developed following the attempt on President Mubarak's life. What are the political methods used by Egypt toward Sudan with a view to rectifying conditions?

[Musa] I have said recently that what has taken place at Addis Ababa revealed or helped to reveal further that a problem exists. The matter existed long before the incident, and it was reiterated in the Arab and African countries and those beyond them that Sudanese policy stands accused of pursuing a method that fails to take into consideration the interests of neighboring countries. These Sudanese practices are bound to alarm a number of the surrounding societies. These reports and accusations do not come from Egypt alone but from every part of the Horn of Africa (the countries that lie to the south and north of Sudan, the Arab countries abutting on Sudan, and the countries of North Africa). All these reiterations cast a black cloud over Sudan's relations with most of the African and Arab countries. Then came the assault on the President [Mubarak] and all indications point to certain fingers being behind it. I shall not add anything more, because the matter is still under investigation.

Relations with Sudan did not deteriorate because of Hala'ib, because this is a simple issue and we should not pause at it. The serious charge leveled against Sudan is that it opens its doors to and shelters terrorists and that it trains them to terrorize societies.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are there any proofs to corroborate these accusations, because reiterations are not sufficient?

[Musa] We do not talk haphazardly. There are proofs and evidences. Everything is being investigated and the investigations have not ended yet. But despite all this, I wish to affirm that the destinies of Egypt and Sudan are one. Once this phase of tension in relations, caused by the reasons I have related, comes to an end, we hope the two peoples will address themselves to matters that would serve the interests of both countries in the fields of progress, development, and prosperity, away from the terrorization of society, and that Sudan will direct itself toward building and development, instead of pursing policies that are rejected by its neighbors and by all those who care about the future of Sudan.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the scope of Egyptian diplomatic action in the coming stage in the regional field with regard to Arab reconciliation? Can the Egyptian diplomatic machine shoulder the objectives of the Egyptian policy?

[Musa] This is its duty and I believe that it is capable of doing so to a great extent.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] With regard to the coming stage and the expected regional conditions, to what extent you think Egypt should regain the role it exercised in the sixties?

[Musa] The conditions in the nineties differ from those of other periods, and they have their particular criteria. Egyptian diplomacy pursues numerous lines and it implements them in the best way, within the framework of its capabilities and the current conditions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What mission could it undertake as we approach the 21st century?

[Musa] The new arrangements in the Middle East region. These arrangements must be completely correct, otherwise all of us will lose control over matters. A new order must develop in the Middle East, because the old order was based on the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is now the subject of the peace process. Under the new peace conditions, a new order and a new arrangement must be set up. The first task and duty of Egyptian policy and diplomacy would be the control of things with regard to the new conditions and arrangements in the Middle East. This is the challenge we are facing.

Mubarak Grants Interview to Israeli Media on POW's

NC2908053195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak gave two interviews yesterday to the French magazine PARIS MATCH and the American magazine LIFE. The interviews revolved around his excellency's views on the role of culture in people's lives and the importance of preserving historic and architectural sites. Al-Sharif pointed out that the president spoke about this topic based on Egypt's vanguard and rich experiment in this field, as a result of the gigantic projects it has undertaken to repair and salvage Egyptian sites, which constitute a major part of human civilization.

The information minister also said President Mubarak gave an interview to Israeli television and the newspaper MA'ARIV in which he discussed current issues, primarily reports emerging about the Israeli authorities' treatment of Egyptian prisoners of war in 1956 and 1967. He also discussed subjects relating to the peace process in the Middle East and regional and international issues.

Al-Baz Comments on POW's, Iraq, Nuclear Weapons

NC2908061995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 28 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has declared that Egypt hopes for a just and fair investigation into the massacre of Egyptian POW's by the Israelis during the 1956 and 1967 wars so that Egypt can bring to account those responsible for these massacres.

Dr. al-Baz criticized the Israeli Government's failure to conduct any investigation in this regard. He stressed the need for detailed reports about the massacres and the dates they occurred as well as on how many Egyptians were victims of such massacres. Dr. al-Baz's remarks were made during his meeting with scouting youth from the universities and companies at the youth camp in Abu Qir in Alexandria tonight.

In his statements Dr. al-Baz said the Arab nation must be prepared to confront the challenges of the next century with complete strength and resoluteness. He said we must draw up an integrated concept to delineate our objectives. This concept must be based on reality and must specify the dangers to which the region and the Arab nation will be subjected through to the next century, he said. Dr. al-Baz said the Arab nation must embark on establishing a common and unified Arab market before we can think of setting up a Middle East market. He pointed out that the Gulf war and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait created tension in the region. It will take us long to treat the negative aspects of this atmosphere, Dr. al-Baz said.

Continuing, Dr. al-Baz maintained that Egypt does not interfere in the domestic affairs of any Arab country. But we will not stand idly by vis-a-vis the suffering of the Iraqi people, he said. He asserted that the Iraqis alone, not external powers, can make the required changes.

Dr. al-Baz said the Arab and Islamic nation is currently facing massive political and economic blocs. He stressed the need for ensuring a balance in the structure of Arab culture. He said there is no contradiction between religious affiliation and nationalist affiliation.

In his remarks Dr. al-Baz said it would not be in Egypt's interest to think of owning nuclear weapons. He said Egypt was not subject to many international restrictions. [previous sentence as received] He stressed the importance of the peaceful use, not military use, of nuclear energy and of applying it to the economic development process. He said that some countries, like South Africa, had voluntarily relinquished nuclear weapons. He noted that Israel had never used nuclear weapons in any of its external disputes, despite its defeat in the glorious October War.

Dr. al-Baz added that the international community adopted a shameful stance on Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said things are complicated, adding that it is not within the power of the UN secretary general to adopt any decision. It is, rather, the Security Council and the superpowers that can decide and that can present complete guarantees. He maintained that Egypt has demanded that the ban on the supply of arms to the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina be lifted so that they can defend themselves.

In his statements, Dr. al-Baz said Egypt is currently implementing an ambitious program of economic reform, adding that this program has so far achieved positive results. He said the next stage will rely on demand and the increase of exports to achieve the required balance and prosperity for the people.

Columnist: Cairo, Jerusalem To Blame for POW's

NC2908085695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 10

["Close-Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "A Scandal for Them and Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The scope of the scandal that started after revelations about war crimes committed by the Israelis against Egyptian prisoners of war in the 1956 and 1967 wars has grown. According to the Israelis themselves, the POW's who were killed number a few hundred to around 1,000. Who knows? The figure might still rise.

As is our usual habit of blaming others, we rushed to accuse Israel of hiding these facts and demanded it investigate these crimes and try the perpetrators. Some of us even wondered what prompted Israel to raise this issue now. Is it its conscience or the coming election battle?

This stance, if at all indicative, shows the unparalleled naivete and extreme disregard for the value of the Egyptian citizen, even when he sacrifices his life for the homeland. Where have we been since 1956 and 1967? And why have we not demanded the rights of our martyrs or asked about their fate? Did we not have lists of the martyrs, wounded, and missing POW's that could have been compared and contrasted, and after that every inch of Sinai could have been dug up in search of those among them who did not return?

According to the Israelis themselves, most of these massacres took place on Egyptian territory in Sinai. Did we ever think of searching these areas for the mass graves in which these martyrs were buried after Sinai was returned to us? Was this issue ever raised in the peace talks that went on for years and resulted in signing the peace agreements with Israel?

Most likely, it is Israel that raised this subject in the talks in the interest of its own victims. Occasionally we hear about Israeli delegations searching for the remains of an Israeli pilot or soldier. But we have not heard the Egyptian side making such demands on the Israeli side throughout the various stages of war and peace in the past 40 years or so.

We are not saying this to defend Israel. Israel's military honor will always be smeared with the shame that cannot be erased by allegations that the Jews were oppressed, tyrannized, tortured, and killed by the Nazis.

But we want to learn how to adhere to our rights and not forfeit them. We want to learn how to defend the rights of the simplest Egyptian citizen and convince him that the real homeland is the one that protects the rights of its citizens.

We want to place Israel's attacks in their historic perspective. We want Israel to face up to its past, which reveals the scope of violence and the racial hatred that contaminate Israeli society, a society that has never stopped claiming it is the bastion of peace against the forces of terrorism and violence in the region.

Yes, it is a scandal for Israel, but we are also responsible for it.

U.S. Policy Toward Saddam, Middle East Viewed

NC2908102495 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 30

["Stances" column by Anis Mansur]

[FBIS Translated Text] The emperor of Iran made me carry a message once for President al-Sadat. I promised not to publish the content. He told al-Sadat: No one in the Middle East has served the Americans as much as I have. The result has been that they have colluded with Khomeyni against me. While Carter was dancing with my wife and I with his, the chief of the CIA was waiting to meet Khomeyni. Do not trust the Americans. They are the grandchildren of Machiavelli and the worst kind of human beings.

For the record, I say here that al-Sadat was gravely saddened by this. But he was much more realistic than the shah of Iran. Al-Sadat knew morality has nothing to do with politics. He would say: If only I had Qatar's oil or even Bahrain's, I would have done to the Americans what no one else did. But, unfortunately, I do not have anything and only get to watch. All I have is a bit of courage and a loud mouth.

What does this mean? This means that all we see in the Middle East are American moves on a chessboard on which we are mere pawns. The U.S. Administration, not the popularly elected government, is the one that plays with, tampers with, removes, and positions a president in place of a king, a watchman in place of a minister. While we are shuffled around on the chessboard we believe we are moving freely through our own power, with our own views and opinion. But making the moves is Washington, with eyes, ears, arms, and legs among us. Everything comes through money and influence.

What does this mean? This means the Americans are liars with regard to their conspiracy over Saddam Husayn

He will stay in power because his staying there is much more important than his death. His staying in power, broken and defeated, is more important than his disappearance and the emergence of small tyrants who want to grow, resist, and revolt against the United States first, then Israel, and then all the Arabs who shared their bread with Israel.

What does this mean? This means Saddam is not finished yet. He will remain a monster frightening Syria, Jordan, and the Gulf states. While there is fear, there are tranquilizers. These tranquilizers and sedatives come in the form of the U.S. forces that are being paid for their gallantry in dollars, something that is breaking the backs of the Gulf states, which then kick out the Arab workers there, mess up their lives, and confuse everything in the Middle East to turn it into another Yugoslavia without a solution.

AL-HAYAH Cites al-Jihad Leadership Dispute

NC2908105595 Paris AFP in English
0939 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 29 (AFP)—A dispute between two leaders of Al-Jihad is threatening to tear apart the Egyptian militant group, the Arab daily AL-HAYAH reported Tuesday [29 August].

Al-Jihad's chief Ayman al-Zawahri has been accused by his deputy, Sa'id 'Abd-al-'Al, of printing distorted passages from 'Abd-al-'Al's book on Islamic studies in the group's Swiss-based newsletter. AL-HAYAH said it received a statement from al-Jihad members opposed to al-Zawahri accusing him of misrepresenting the book.

"It is forbidden to change even one letter of the book, and those involved in the distorted publication of this work are the accomplices of Evil," they protested. Al-Jihad militants assassinated former president Anwar al-Sadat in 1981. A dispute emerged within the group two years ago after its military wing Tala'i' al-Fatah was set up.

Al-Zawahri was condemned to death in absentia in 1992. Armed Moslem fundamentalists are fighting to topple Egypt's secular government and set up an Islamic state.

Information Minister Denies Sudanese Deported

NC2808135695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1343 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has denied a report published by the Sudanese newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM which claimed that the Egyptian authorities deported a group of Sudanese residing in Egypt including some journalists after Mubarak al-Fadil, a Sudanese citizen, submitted a list of names to the Egyptian Government.

The information minister said this report is totally false because such an action would be contradictory to the Egyptian conscience and traditions.

Five Opposition Parties Plan To Contest Elections

NC2808132395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1224 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Five Egyptian opposition parties have praised President Husni Mubarak's announcement that the next People's Assembly elections will be honest and the government will not interfere in them. They noted his call to the various political parties to participate in these elections.

The Ummah Party, the Liberal Party, the Greens Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Egyptian Democratic People's Party issued a statement today declaring that they will contest the elections regardless of whether they are held according to the individual candidate system or the party ticket system. They said they believe it is necessary to share in this national duty. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Former Minister Forms New Political Party

AB2908100595 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0730 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A new party has appeared in Mauritania's political landscape. Messaoud Ould Boulkehir, a former rural development minister, has just created Mauritania's 21st political party, the Action for Change [Action pour le Changement].

The party's objective is to strive for a change of mentality among Mauritanians so as to achieve its avowed aim of causing a change of regime. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Official Says Ties With Egypt 'Top Priority'

NC2908091095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0835 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, Sudanese minister of state at the Presidential Office, has said that Sudan, despite its differences with Egypt, considers its relations with Egypt as a top priority. He added that Sudan always tries to maintain these relations at a level that would allow Sudan to change some policies with the aim of safeguarding these relations.

In a statement to today's AL-SHA'B, the mouthpiece of the opposition Labor Party, the Sudanese minister said Sudan's relations with Egypt are strategic. He stressed that the deterioration of these relations will only benefit the enemies. He said the presence of the Sudanese Embassy and ambassador in Cairo as well as exchanges between the two countries' officials confirm that relations with Egypt still exist. He said each country's envoys continue to contact officials in the other country on the various levels.

TNA Speaker: Stronger Ties With Ethiopia Sought

EA2808165695 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, 28 Aug (SUNA) — Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, has asserted the Sudan is in need of mobilizing efforts of all whole-hearted citizens at the outset of the seventh year of the revolution, to force a peaceful settlement. The forthcoming strategy requires intensive efforts, he said, describing the government's decision setting free all the political prisoners as a remarkable and great achievement.

In response to an inquiry on why the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] remained dormant, Khalifah denied the state of dormancy of the IGADD initiative, saying there were unceasing efforts and coordination aiming at boosting the peace process. [passage omitted]

Asked if his latest visit to Britain intended to reach a national reconciliation, Khalifah said despite the fact that the visit was private, those who assume public office cannot confine themselves to private issues.

Khalifah, meanwhile, stressed the government's resolution for boosting bilateral and parliamentary relations with Ethiopia, notably following the replacement of the transitional rule by democratically elected government.

Taha Briefed by Iraqi Ambassador on Defection

EA2808170595 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 28 Aug (SUNA) — The foreign minister, Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, has stressed Sudan's keenness to see Iraq maintain its unity and overcome the difficulties it is currently experiencing. Taha made the remarks here today when he met his excellency the Iraqi ambassador to Sudan.

The minister was briefed on the circumstances surrounding the flight of Husayn Kamal Hasan, the former minister of military industry, from Iraq to Jordan.

Minister Briefs British Envoy, Hails Relations

EA2808192795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishop Gabriel Rorech, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, met in his office this morning his excellency the British ambassador to Sudan. The minister of state praised the development of relations between Sudan and Britain. He commended the ambassador's efforts to strengthen and enhance bilateral relations for the good of the two countries.

The meeting also touched on Sudan's efforts to achieve peace from within the country and the efforts by IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] and IGADD's friends, in addition to former U.S. President Carter's initiatives.

The minister stressed the Sudanese Government's keenness to establish peace in the country and its readiness to hold negotiations with the rebel movement, within the framework of such initiatives. He pointed out that the continuing dissension within the rebels' ranks constitutes an obstruction to the holding of negotiations.

The minister briefed his excellency the ambassador on the continuing return by rebel elements who have been convinced of the futility of war and the government's seriousness in establishing peace.

Al-Din Views Contacts With Opposition Groups

EA2808200495 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 28 Aug (SUNA) — Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, a minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, has stated that there are contacts between the Sudanese Government and opposition groups abroad with the aim of achieving national accord. He said in an interview with the Arabic section of the (?BBC) that the government had shown its commitment to the decision relating to the release of all political detainees, whose number did not exceed 32.

He confirmed that these 32 account for all the political prisoners, but that there are other people — who have been convicted for crimes connected to previous military coups — who were not covered by the decision, but their number does not exceed 10 individuals. They were convicted after public trials where they were given all means to defend themselves.

Replying to a question on external and internal contacts to achieve the national accord in Sudan, Dr. Ghazi [Salah al-Din] said that he did not know about any foreign quarter with which the government [words indistinct] to bring about reconciliation inside Sudan.

However, requests have been presented by some of those who are linked to the so-called opposition abroad. Some have returned, while others are still negotiating with the aim of returning. Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din confirmed that dialogue with political figures in Sudan has never stopped under all circumstances.

Bahrain

Amir Gets Letter From Bangladeshi Prime Minister

JN2608123695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah today received a letter from Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur regarding her call for convening an Islamic summit to discuss the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the need for an Islamic move to save the Bosnian people from the aggression currently waged against them. The message also deals relations between the two friendly countries and means of boosting them in the various fields.

The letter was delivered by Bangladeshi ambassador to Bahrain during a meeting with the amir here today.

Kuwait

Minister on Iraqi Threat, Military Response

NC2808160495 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 5

[Interview with Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Sana' al-Sa'id, in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Sa'id] What is your assessment of the future in light of current U.S. moves, which give the impression that something is being planned in the region?

[Al-Sabah] Our chief problem is the current Iraqi regime, which remains in power and continues to threaten Kuwait and other regional countries. The more isolated the regime becomes, the greater its domestic problems and the more acute its fear of losing power becomes, so it tries to export its domestic troubles abroad by threatening neighboring countries, including Kuwait. The regime's recent moves were obvious to everyone. The Iraqi forces carried out unusual movements in the south and north. Therefore we will adopt all necessary measures to end these threats. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] According to some opinions, the United States is playing up the situation and beating war drums in order to carry out a military strike against Iraq.

[Al-Sabah] I have grown weary of this kind of talk. For five years now, I have been listening to such theories by self-styled political savants. The issue is clear. We have here a military regime that invaded and occupied Kuwait for seven months and threatened it again in October 1994. Now the Iraqi army is making fresh moves. We will not rest as long as there is a single Iraqi soldier moving out of his position or camp. Any move must be confronted.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you support a U.S. military strike against Iraq? Will you participate in it?

[Al-Sabah] Iraq must implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. It must not cross certain parallels in the north and south. Iraq knows this very well. It knows that it will suffer an immediate strike if it crosses the 32d parallel to the south.

[Al-Sa'id] Will you back military action against Iraq if this happens?

[Al-Sabah] If Iraq crosses the 32d parallel to the south, it will be subjected to a military strike because such a move will mean that it is massing troops on the Kuwaiti border and plans to reinvade Kuwait. This matter is settled. The decision to carry out a military strike against it then will be left to the coalition forces, which specified the 32d parallel as a line that must not be crossed.

[Al-Sa'id] Husayn Kamil recently called for the Gulf countries' support to overthrow the Saddam regime. Would you deal with him?

[Al-Sabah] I know this man very well. Not only was he involved, but he was one of the masterminds of the invasion of Kuwait. He is one of those behind the devastation that has befallen us. He was one of the people who managed the invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Husayn Kamil is a war criminal, wanted for justice just like Saddam. He must not try to exonerate himself by merely escaping to Jordan. This theatrical production that he recently played will deceive no one. As I have said, he is a war criminal and is wanted to stand trial for the crimes he committed. No individual or a state can have any dealings with him.

[Al-Sa'id] How can the regime in Iraq be toppled?

[Al-Sabah] No one can overthrow the regime in Iraq, except from inside Iraq and the Iraqi military regime. The countdown has begun and is left to the Iraqi people.

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding Jordan, there are reports of improved relations between Kuwait and Jordan, particularly after Saudi Arabia has taken active steps toward this goal?

[Al-Sabah] The Kuwaiti embassy in Amman is functioning and diplomatic relations between the two countries have not been severed. However, there are still deep wounds among the Kuwaiti people over Jordan's stance after the Iraqi invasion. This issue is left for politicians and the Kuwaiti foreign ministry.

[Al-Sa'id] Hasn't the time come for Kuwait to pardon Jordan?

[Al-Sabah] It is not a matter of pardoning. What counts is good intentions in the future. The ball is in the Jordanian court. Jordan knows exactly what must be done now to normalize relations. Things are crystal clear to Jordan and others as to the stance they must adopt. If anyone takes one step toward normalizing relations with us, we will take two, because sooner or later we must be frank with each other. These are political matters and there is no permanent enemy or permanent friend. But this issue must be handled with sensitivity and delicacy because the Kuwaiti people's feelings are still replete with pain over those problems. [passage omitted]

TV Previews Upcoming U.S.-Kuwaiti Maneuvers

LD2808192395 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Report by Mazin al-Ansari]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint U.S.-Kuwaiti maneuvers will start in the State of Kuwait on Wednesday [30 August], the day after tomorrow. Units from the Kuwaiti armed forces and about 2,500 American soldiers equipped with the sophisticated American M-A1 tanks and Bradley personnel carriers will participate in the maneuvers which will last 45 days. Squadrons of American F-16 and F-15 fighters will also participate in the maneuvers.

The American forces took up their positions a few days after their arrival in the State of Kuwait and were at the highest degree of readiness.

Today Staff Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, commander of the General Staff, paid an inspection visit to the region where the maneuvers are to be held and got acquainted with the degree of readiness of the forces participating in the forthcoming joint training exercises.

In a statement to Kuwaiti television, Major General James B. Taylor, the commander of the American forces deployed in Kuwait, said that the American soldiers enjoy a high morale and are looking forward to the joint training exercises with their colleagues the soldiers of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

UN General Assembly President Begins Visit

LD2608184595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1730 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 26 Aug (KUNA) — Amara Essy, president of the UN General Assembly and Cote d'Ivoire foreign minister arrived in Kuwait today on an official four-day visit to the country.

The guest and his delegation were welcomed on their arrival by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the ambassadors of Zimbabwe, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Somalia to Kuwait; and a number of senior foreign ministry officials.

Oil Minister: 'No Decision' on Oil for Jordan

LD2708165895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0722 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Aug — In a press interview published here today, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Muhsin Mid'aj al-Mid'aj stressed that Kuwait has taken all the necessary preparations to confront the developments in the region. Al-Mid'aj pointed out to AL-WAFD newspaper that [the issue of] "supplying Jordan with oil has not been officially put forward, and no decision has been taken in that respect as it is subject to a political decision." He stressed that "every situation is judged on its merits."

He referred to the interest of the whole world in keeping the Gulf region safe, and in not allowing affairs to cause a disruption to the oil supplies to the countries of the world due to its connection with international interests. He mentioned that Kuwait has always adopted precautionary measures in light of the experience of the unjust Iraqi invasion. He emphasized that the imposition of the international blockade on Iraq until now was "the result of the practices of the Iraqi regime" itself.

He pointed out that "the Iraqi regime is still in possession of dangerous weapons, and is ready to invade any of its neighbors", and that all its practices were aggressive, whether inside or outside Iraq. He affirmed that Iraq has not complied with all the resolutions of the international community, particularly in connection with the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners detained in its prisons, and the return of the Kuwaiti possessions which it plundered during its invasion of the State of Kuwait.

Concerning the present situation of OPEC, al-Mid'aj pointed out that there were "transgressions" in the exports of some member countries, which "negatively" affected oil prices. He hoped that the OPEC member countries which exceeded their quotas will adhere to the agreements concluded in that respect in the organization's previous conferences. He referred to the need for an "understanding" among OPEC and the oil producing countries outside OPEC to push prices up. He mentioned that the countries with high production and low quotas, like Kuwait, have been making sacrifices under these conditions.

On the other hand, and concerning the possibility of setting up joint oil projects with Israel, al-Mid'aj affirmed the "absolute" non-existence of relations with Israel, pointing out that "Kuwait links those relations to the full comprehensive peace process in the region." He pointed to the non-existence of relations with Israel, or any oil projects with it "as long as the decision of the Arab embargo is still in force," noting "Kuwait's commitment in this respect as long as a comprehensive peace has not yet been established."

U.S. C-17 Transport Aircraft Arrives

LD2708192195 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The most sophisticated transport aircraft of the U.S. Air Force, the C-17 aircraft, arrived in this country today carrying 80,000 lbs of military equipment. This is the first time this aircraft has taken part in a transport operation outside the United States. [passage omitted]

Plane Carrying Aid Leaves for Croatia

LD2808123695 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Upon instructions from His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh region, chairman of the higher commission for collecting donations for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia, a C-130 aid plane left Riyadh today, heading for the Croatian port of Split. The plane is carrying 10 tonnes of aid materials, including seven tonnes of medicine, and three tonnes of milk, within the framework of the urgent aid program carried out by the higher commission for collecting donations for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia. Within the same framework, preparations are underway at Jeddah to load the ship 'Arab Fadil with donations in kind which the generous people from among the merchants, proprietors of national factories, benefactors, citizens, and residents have generously donated. These materials include milk, flour, rice, canned foods, and clothes. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Condemns Serb Shelling of Sarajevo

LD2808202095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 28 Aug (SPA) — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has described the current state of the Arab world as in pressing need of reason and logic. He added that the recent changes in the world must be taken into consideration in order to rid the Arab and Islamic societies of tensions and reduce the gap between these societies and their aspirations to enter the 21st century with a positive spirit and effective participation so as to achieve more security, tranquillity and prosperity for their peoples. [passage omitted]

The king said: "Saudi Arabia, which has been honored by God to serve the two holy places and care for pilgrims and visitors, believes that the best way to face this unusual situation in the Arab world is to confront these dangers and deal with them so that the Arab nation can continue building itself and achieve inter-Arab solidarity and cooperation in accordance with the principles of the Koran and the Sunna."

This took place in the council of ministers' session chaired by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today, Monday, 2 Rabi' Thani 1416H [28 August 1995], which was held at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

His excellency the minister of information said that as regards the Bosnian issue the council of ministers condemned this morning's new Serb aggression against the Bosnian capital Sarajevo in which more than 80 people were killed or injured following the Serb aggressors' shelling of a crowded thoroughfare in the capital Sarajevo. The council considers this horrific attack as another criminal act by the Serbs against innocent civilians. The council expressed its concern over the United Nations' decision to withdraw the international peacekeeping troops from Gorazde which the United Nations has declared a safe haven. The council called upon the international community to ensure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [passage omitted]

Bosnian President Receives Saudi Aid in Mostar

LD2808212895 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A check representing part of the receipts of the campaign of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to help the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was presented in Mostar today. More details in the following report:

[Correspondent] The delegation of the Saudi Higher Commission for Donations to Bosnian Muslims handed Bosnian President Alija Izethegovic part of the donations from the custodian of the two holy mosques and the government and people of Saudi Arabia. The Bosnian president welcomed the Saudi delegation and thanked the Kingdom's king, government and people for the Kingdom's honorable and Islamic stand in support of the brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina since the outbreak of the Serbian aggression.

He said that the Kingdom had always been the first to extent a helping hand to the Muslims all over the world and in Bosnia. He wished the Saudi Kingdom progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified member of Saudi delegation] The Saudi delegation has handed to the Bosnian president the first part of the receipts of the campaign conducted by the custodian of the two holy mosques, an amount of 112,500,000 riyals. We pray to Almighty God to accord his help to our brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to help us in our standing on their side.

Europeans Said Against Muslim State in Europe

LD2808232095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Commentary by Husayn al-'Askari]

[FBIS Translated Text] The contact group of the Organization of the Islamic conference [OIC] is expected to hold a meeting in Kuala Lumpur in the first week of the coming month to discuss the developments in Bosnia and provide Bosnia with weapons to defend itself and confront the war of religious extermination launched by the Serbian bands in order to prevent the rise of a Muslim state in the center of Europe.

Until now all the international efforts have failed to put an end to the war of annihilation launched by the Serbian bands against the Republic of Bosnia. For it is nearly four years since the beginning of the war of extermination that was launched by Serbs with the help of some international forces which support the aggressor and provide him with men and weapons, as in the case of Russia which stands alongside the Serbs on the battlefield and in the political arena through Moscow's rejection of any solution which does not accept the fait-accompli the Serbs are trying to enforce by occupying well over 70 percent of Bosnian territory.

With this in mind, now comes the move of the Islamic states which may have more effect and influence compared with the previous moves of the Islamic states which gave the international community many opportunities to solve the problem but alas, without avail.

However, it appears that the international community, especially its powerful states, do not have the desire to put an end to this war. It is because the states of Europe themselves are in favor of not allowing the rise of a Muslim state in the middle of Europe.

This has never been a secret. In fact, it has been a well declared stand by the European leaders. This is the secret behind prolonging the suffering of the Bosnian people. It is because those who support the Serbs intentionally let the war to go on to let the aggressor settle the affairs in his favor.

However, the resistance of the Bosnian people and defending their right to their homeland despite the arms embargo managed to foil the plots of their enemies who found themselves facing a heroic resistance by the rightful claimers of justice.

From this comes the expected meeting of the OIC contact group at a time when the Islamic world hopes that the Islamic states adopt a decisive stand against the ferocious challenges which are not targeted at the Bosnian people only, but also, they want to reduce the Islamic world into servitude.

United Arab Emirates

Dubayy Begins Negotiations To Buy Iranian Gas

NC2808143695 Paris AFP in English 1305 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Aug 28 (AFP) — The French company Total has begun negotiations to sell Iranian gas to Dubayy despite U.S. attempts to persuade the Gulf emirate to give up the deal, the specialist Middle East Economic Survey said Monday [28 August].

Washington made diplomatic representations to the governor of Dubayy, Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, to try to convince him not to buy Iranian gas available as a result of Total's exploitation of the offshore Sirri oilfields, the Cyprus-based newsletter said.

"However, the initiation of formal negotiations between the Dubayy government and Total with regard to the purchase of gas would suggest that the U.S. representations have fallen on deaf ears in Dubayy," one of seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates, MEES said.

Total has proposed a price of 1.25 dollars per million British Thermal Units (BTU) for the gas — compared to the price of one dollar previously offered by Conoco, the U.S. company which had a deal to exploit the Sirri oilfields before Washington slapped an economic embargo on Tehran in June as part of its campaign to isolate Iran.

Total won the contract in mid-July.

But Dubayy is insisting on 0.75 dollars per million BTU, the newsletter said. The emirate's gas needs are expected to double from 400 million to 800 million cubic feet per day (1.2 million to 2.4 million cubic metres) in the next four to five years, and it has had talks with other potential suppliers such as Iran, Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Oman.

Total is to invest 600 million dollars in developing the offshore Sirri A and Sirri E oilfields near the maritime border with Dubayy.

Exiles Say 'Udayy Under House Arrest

NC2808150795 Paris AFP in English
1436 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 28 (AFP) — President Saddam Husayn has put his eldest son, 'Udayy, under house arrest in a bid to blame him for Iraq's deterioration, newspapers reported here Monday [28 August].

Saddam is also hoping the step will restore some of his credibility as a leader intent on uprooting corruption, the ARAB TIMES and its sister newspaper AL-SIYASSA reporting, quoting Iraqi exiles in Jordan.

The report could not immediately be confirmed.

Iraqi opposition sources have said that 'Udayy's growing power and authority in Baghdad provoked the defection to Jordan of former industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan, who is married to Saddam's eldest daughter, Raghad.

The Iraqi exiles also told the newspapers that the Iraqi leader was consulting with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz about possibly announcing semi-democratic reforms.

This is to "show he is taking a second significant step after handing over the secrets of the mass destruction weapon programs to the United Nations," an Iraqi exiled quoted by the paper said.

Iraq handed over the information shortly after Husayn Kamil defected to Jordan.

Diplomats said the move appeared to be pre-emptive as Baghdad feared the former industry minister would release the secrets himself and ruin any chances Baghdad had of ending sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

TV Airs More Alleged Remarks by Husayn Kamil

JN2808193495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1802 GMT 28 Aug 95

["New Political Report" entitled "For the Sake of Truth" — read by announcer; italicized passages are audio recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Peace and blessings of God be upon you. Dear listeners and viewers, we will present to you today another chapter of the tricks of traitor, liar Husayn Kamil, so that you will be acquainted with this conspirator's wickedness and plotting against the people and leadership of Iraq. We would like to indicate that the meetings of the leadership and the Council of Ministers are audio recorded in full. Only the inauguration of meetings is videotaped for a few minutes for publication in the news media.

On 3 May 1995, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] held a meeting to discuss the relationship between Iraq and the UN Special Commission. Traitor Husayn Kamil was invited to that meeting since his job was related to that issue. During the debates, he was the only one who objected to continued work with Ekeus, contrary to the viewpoints of the leadership members. The following is the text of what this conspirator said at that meeting, which was held on 3 May 1995:

[Saddam Husayn] *General Husayn.*

[Kamil] *Thank you, sir. Sir, if we go back a little and review the behavior of Ekeus and the Special Commission and its position, we notice that they often depict matters as if the issue in question has been discarded or closed. The al-Hakam installation issue, sir, was closed a long time ago. It was almost closed in 1992. However, they recently came back and raised it seriously. My observation about them is that they take matters step by step. Ekeus came now and raised the missiles issue. He said those machines [sentence incomplete as heard]. Concerning the machines subject, we more or less understood from Ekeus that no machine or any part will be destroyed in Iraq as long as monitoring in our factories exist and is effective. We rejected the monitoring issue for a long time before approving it. He then began coordination and installed the monitoring cameras the way he wanted. Presently, there is no doubt that the monitoring cameras are doing their job effectively. After we agreed to allow our factories to be monitored, he destroyed chemical weapons and some parts, using the same allegation. He then raised the missiles issue again and said that those, too, can be destroyed.*

Sir, I believe that if we make room for give-and-take in the missiles issue, Ekeus will not be satisfied with missiles. In other words, he will come back. This is because, sir, they are delaying the issue of destruction. They do not come to raise all issues to say we want all these things destroyed all at once. Rather, they deal with such things step by step. I am saying that they will return to the nuclear issue, and they may also return to the missiles issue. This is because, sir, we know how they dealt with the missiles issue. The permitted range is 150 km. When we started to work on the 150-km range, they delayed us for months. For almost eight months after we completed our designs and began implementation, they did not notify us of their decision. Afterward, they came back and reduced the size of the engines of the missiles. Why? They said you may enlarge the tanks in the future, although it is true that the missiles have a range of 150 km. This is so even though there was nothing of *that sort in the decision, which, deliberately, did not go into details. So, sir, I believe that they will come back, and they may come back to the big machines. The big machines, sir, are not for nuclear purposes. Moreover, some of those machines were not used for nuclear purposes at all. However, they believe the machines we brought are for nuclear purposes because of their sizes.*

Sir, when I say that we allow the destruction of the special machines, I believe, sir, that they will go back one more phase because the issue of the al-Hakam Installation is over, and the missile issue was almost closed. Ekeus is a man who is not sure of his words and promises many things.

We all were optimistic that after the supervision came into being no equipment in Iraq would be destroyed at all. Supervision exists and they destroyed weapons and factories. Supervision would secure watching anything produced. For this reason, sir, I say we must create a problem with them. Based on my feeling of our situation as viewed by the world, I say that the whole world does not care despite the fact that Iraq has been suffering from the blockade for five or six years and that the Iraqi people are suffering from the difficulty of obtaining food.

However, we noted that when we create a large problem the world begins to move, but some of its movements are fake. Sir, we have given a great deal and no problem is left. The blockade was imposed and the aggression was launched because we entered into Kuwait. But we withdrew from Kuwait and recognized Kuwait. We also destroyed factories and weapons.

Sir, I swear by God that I am not confident that Ekeus will close the missile issue. Even if he closes the missile file, he will go back to numerous files present before us. From my viewpoint, sir, I believe that we should not agree, and that we should talk to Ekeus and to the permanent member states and tell them frankly that Ekeus is lying and that he was paving the way for setting up the supervision. We recognized the supervision, so why does Ekeus now go back and destroy our weapons or machines?

Sir, I naturally cite Lieutenant General 'Amir's remark that if Ekeus doubts anything he goes back and destroys it. Hence, he casts doubt on all our factories. In other words, the nuclear [weapons] were not in one or two factories. This means that Ekeus can come back to us to discuss everything. Even making the water run can be part of the nuclear issue. Moreover, electricity can also be part of the nuclear issue.

Sir, I do not believe at all that their situation is sound. They will continue to behave this way. This is based on my conclusions and on our work with Ekeus. Ekeus does not raise all problems together to gain time and, at the same time, to facilitate our recognition and acceptance. When we address a small issue, we recognize it and forget about it. But Ekeus once again raises another issue. When he submits his file to the Security Council, the file is incomplete and he says that there are outstanding issues.

Sir, Ekeus raised this matter in all his meetings and all his reports. In his reports, he says that there are outstanding issues with Iraq. What issues are still outstanding? A meeting was held with the Russian ambassador who said that the al-Hakam Installation was the basic issue.

I told the Russian ambassador: Your state believes that the al-Hakam Installation is the problem. He said: This issue was raised. I said: All right; let me tell you: Let us remove the al-Hakam Installation along with all its contents. Will the problem then be over? You believe that Russia is a great country. He said: No, the problem will not be over. Sir, he was an official who gave his personal viewpoint.

So, sir, I do not think that they are serious. I believe that this is a series that will lead to the destruction of other machines. There will be other episodes for this destruction. In my view, sir, we must raise problems with them and incite world public opinion and incite governments to show that Ekeus is filthy. With Ekeus we mean America. We have to talk frankly about America and how it empowers Ekeus. Otherwise, time will pass and destruction will continue, because everything that is destroyed and each decision we make has no value. I, as a citizen, feel that if we recognize Kuwait — sir, this is just an opinion — they will accept. I personally wish that we do not agree [to recognize Kuwait]. But, this is the destiny of a people. When we recognized Kuwait, they made statements and said so what if you recognized [Kuwait]? What will happen if we destroy weapons and what will happen if we destroy factories?

Sir, I do not think that there is anything that has a value, whatsoever, any longer. Their aim is to squander time, create problems, cripple our affairs in particular. The issue is not that of the embargo. Sir, with regard to Paragraph 22 and removing it or putting it by this party or that, I believe that this has become a simple thing: If there is no change in international politics, there will be no change in the UN or U.S. policies. There might be a change in the Russian and French policies. Sir, Paragraph 22 will not be implemented. Sir, this is my personal viewpoint, they are far from implementing Paragraph 22. Even if they started its implementation, they would start with weak stages. Sir, they particularly want us to be suppressed before the world and to accept *their conditions. I do not think that the embargo will be lifted before we accept their conditions. The northern issue is an Iraqi issue. Now, he started raising this issue in a strange manner. We do not have the right to enter the northern area nor to govern the northern area. Whereas, it is imposed on us that they buy, sell, distribute, and run its affairs. Sir, I believe that this does not need discussion or clarification. In my view, we have to say that this is enough and tell him and tell the whole world that enough is enough. Sir, this is what we have concluded and we must rely on ourselves. We have to say that Ekeus is a liar and that America lies and is aggressive. We must announce this to the world. Sir, I do not think that we fear that America would launch a missile or even 10 missiles at us. Let it launch missiles. Sir, we are a people that have made achievements.*

Sir, I am sorry to raise this but we suffer on a daily basis from problems and repercussions resulting from his cables and behavior. They act in a provocative manner and insult us. They say that they want to see the wife of this doctor who fled. Then the doctor calls his family and tells them that he is in Libya. They would say that they must see him. One of them would come here in an unofficial manner and say that he insists to see him and to see his wife and say that we might have imprisoned her. So, what if we imprisoned her. She is an Iraqi national. Who are they that we let them see her and make sure that she is not imprisoned. Sir, to be honest with your excellency, there have been many insults in this situation. I thank you sir.

[Announcer] During the same meeting of 3 May 1995, this traitor and liar also commented on the views of the comrades, the members of the RCC, who held different views. This traitor said:

[Husayn Kamil] *Sir, here is a report that we submitted last year. It shows facts directly. Sir, if you allow me, I will read paragraphs from it because they are related to their tricks. Sir, regarding the missiles in particular and apart from the al-Hakam Installation, why did they do? We said that the file of this subject was closed at the end of 1992 and once again in 1993. In 1992, sir, we destroyed a large specialized factory for manufacturing the solid fuel missiles. We also destroyed many things related to the liquid fuel missiles. Despite this, when the Special Commission felt that the issue of recognizing Kuwait would be decided, it began repeating certain questions and issues in a more provocative way than ever. We had finished the missile issue. After recognizing Kuwait, they began to raise the missile issue. Immediately after the crisis, the Special Commission stepped up and toughened its methods and returned to the file of the previous, starting from square one.*

[Saddam] *Give us milk and tea.*

[Husayn Kamil] *They began from square one, demanded supporting documents, and focused on certain remaining secondary and trivial questions in to create some points and to achieve a political goal, perhaps, by considering some machines imported items for the previous program and then destroying them. The issue of destruction was decided in 1992, when a large portion of the machines of the industrial base of the engines of the solid fuel missiles, all factories in Bilat al-Shuhada', and secondary machines of another project related to missiles after recognizing Resolution 715, were destroyed. Sir, in 1993 Ekeus asserted that the destruction of any additional machines had ended. He told us that there would be no more destruction of any additional machines.*

[Saddam] *In which year was that?*

[Husayn Kamil] *In 1993, after we recognized Resolution 715 on missiles and that they would be subject to monitoring only. This actually took place. But the Special Commission began to raise the issue of the Chinese radar, which we bought very recently. But we did not use it for the missiles because it was a long-range one. The radar was included in the list of items related to the missiles, which we also did not use. However, they destroyed it. We obtained your approval and the Chinese radar was destroyed after we recognized Resolution 715 and after the issue of Kuwait. All this happened at the instructions of your excellency.*

Two days ago, the head of the inspection team noted that they would request the destruction of important and vital machinery for manufacturing parts of missile engines. Sir, in 1992 they closed the file; and in 1993 they raised the issue again. After Kuwait, we returned to destroy the Chinese radar. Now, the head of the inspection team says that it is possible to manufacture parts of the liquid-fuel missile engines. Sir, the issue of solid fuel ended and now they come back to the issue of liquid fuel. This is now under monitoring in light of what the inspection team will present to Ekeus in New York.

We believe that the UN Special Commission went too far in its behavior. The UN Special Commission's stand on the issue of missile activities is an example of its new stand after our recognition of Kuwait. There are other problems in the chemical and biological fields, which we are trying to contain so that they will not be taken as an excuse.

Sir, these are only headlines. They first raised the biological issue; now they are raising the issue of missiles. This is the story, sir. This is what we did on 18 December 1994. The report is clear, sir. They keep silent for a while, but later they come back to us. After *recognizing [Resolution] 715, Ekeus told us that he will not destroy any machinery and that monitoring will be over. Sir, when they destroy any machine, they say: What shall we do? You have not recognized Resolution 715, so destruction will continue. Recognizing 715 means an end to destruction.*

Sir, they are now after something, but I do not know whether or not we are aware of it. They want us to appear like liars before the world. So, they will exert more pressure on us and they will come back and say we have biological missiles. The international community, sir, will not believe everything Ekeus says. In other words, they want us to contribute to giving confidence to Ekeus and to make people believe that what Ekeus says is correct and that this is the reality of Iraq. Ekeus has his special commission, which enters Iraq and monitors things.

Sir, I believe that, after this, if they say something wrong the world will believe them. We admitted things many times. This, sir, is the reality of the issue of missiles only. They now talk about destroying missile machinery, but how much is hidden? This, sir, (?we do not know). Thank you, sir.

[Announcer] However, the RCC did not adopt the traitor's observations. Rather, it decided to invite Rolf Ekeus to Baghdad at the end of May to complete some issues related to the arms files. Ekeus came to Baghdad and held talks with officials. As a result of the talks, Ekeus presented a positive report to the UN Security Council on 19 June 1995, which was then regarded by the leadership as a step forward.

A few days ago, traitor Husayn Kamil was panicked when he heard a recording of his remarks at a joint meeting of the RCC and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Party on 10 October 1994 and a Council of Ministers meeting on 20 February 1995. He claimed to Radio Monte Carlo that he did not say that neighboring countries are enemies, even Jordan. Rather, he claimed that he said in the meeting that neighboring countries are enemies, except for Jordan. He claimed that the recording broadcast by Iraqi media was fake. He also claimed that he did not call for canceling the approval of Resolution 715, the occupation of Kuwait and the eastern region of Saudi Arabia, and halting cooperation with Ekeus. He claimed that Baghdad transmitted a fake recording of his remarks in which some words were omitted and others added. He also claimed the meeting was intended to make general remarks, etcetera. Listeners could clearly hear a tone of falsehood and untruthfulness in his voice.

That ignorant person has forgotten that acousticians can precisely verify any change, addition, omission, or montage in any audio tape. He forgot that those concerned and UN or other experts can verify the owner of the voice and determine whether the recorded words and their sequence are true, genuine, and void of any omissions or additions. This is the truth. Peace be with you.

Husayn Kamil on Defection, Regime, Plans

JN2908104095 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 28 Aug-3 Sep 95 pp 16-20

[Interview with Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid by Zaki Shihab in Jordan; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shihab] When and why did you decide to leave Iraq?

[Kamil] The thought of leaving Baghdad was not new, but the delay was caused by a number of regulations and personal ties, including family relationships. I have criticized the mistakes of the regime as demonstrated in the continuous wars, hostility toward Arab countries and conspiricies against them, and involving Iraq in several issues that are larger than its size. All of these issues made Iraq weak and exhausted and put it in a difficult situation.

[Shihab] Did you have a direct confrontation with the Iraqi president or his son right before you left?

[Kamil] You mean personal confrontation?

[Shihab] Yes.

[Kamil] There was never a direct personal confrontation. However, there was a direct confrontation on the need for the regime to correct its mistakes and tackle its affairs. I tried to clarify this for years, not just recently. During the party's congress after the Gulf war, I clarified my position and gave some sharp criticism, but nothing was changed. I resigned as defense minister because these mistakes continued, and I stayed at home for several months. Then they [not further identified] invited me to attend meetings in which they told me that it is difficult to correct mistakes because of the circumstances. After I quit the job and stayed at home, an attempt was made to get me to rejoin the government. They told me that they needed time and the right circumstances to deal with these mistakes. They convinced me to return to power, and I resumed my activities and held several portfolios. However, I noticed that the mistakes continued. Among these mistakes were plans for an invasion of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which were discussed on more than one occasion. I stated that I was against these plans. I also said that the internal policy is repressive and that the executions that are taking place are unbelievable. The conditions in Iraqi prisons are difficult, and the citizens are badly treated. There are men in the regime who are opportunists and who take money and try to impose their views on many ministries. All of this was discouraging and accelerated my decision to leave Baghdad. I began to criticize these thing at every cabinet meeting, but no one confronted me because of my well- known history and the good things I have done for my country. All of this would have created a difficult situation if they wanted to keep me out of power. There were two reasons for not stripping me of power: first, the Iraqis would have protested and interpreted my removal in several ways; second, they needed my work in the country. I decided eventually to leave and act. I did not want to take any action while I was at home because of relationships and the strong family bonds because according to our heritage to take action is viewed as shameful. However, I have the right to leave the country and to work openly against the regime especially as the regime is known for the harm it inflicted on the country and the entire Arab region, the neighboring countries in particular. This was the reason for my surprise departure from my country and what led me to declare the beginning of my antiregime efforts.

[Shihab] You talked about mistakes which they said cannot be corrected instantly. What were these mistakes?

[Kamil] The mistakes were in the regime's foreign policy. Why did it hide important documents from the Security Council after it accepted the Council's resolutions? If Iraq's weapons of mass destruction were destroyed, why did it hide these papers for years, thus aggravating the Iraqi peoples' suffering caused by the siege? No one in the world believes what Iraq says now because Iraq tells a new story every day. In addition, there are the executions and the internal policy. There has been no concern about domestic production. Huge mistakes are committed, daily executions are taking place, and leading military and civilian officials are constantly changing. These officials are pushed into marginal roles so that only one man retains leadership.

[Shihab] Much has been said about family differences. Are there really differences, and what are 'Udayy and Qusayy's roles in them?

[Kamil] There are no basic differences. This is the reality. Barzan al-Tikriti (Saddam's half-brother) is a troublemaker. He is the black sheep of the family. Aside from this, there are some minor sensitivities, which do not have any impact. A disagreement took place the day I left for Jordan. 'Udayy opened fire on Watban, and on four men and six women. The disagreement that caused this was minor.

[Shihab] What caused this disagreement?

[Kamil] An argument between Lu'ayy Khayrallah Talfah and Numayr Dahham, Watban's nephew, on a certain topic. The truth is that 'Udayy owns a meat company from the mixed sector. This company imports meat, pays for it in Iraqi dinars but at the previous rate of exchange, that is, more than $3 to the dinar, and sells the meat on the market at current prices. This company became responsible for feeding the Iraqi army. Lu'ayy became partners with Hasan al- Qassab [not further identified]. I believe that the disagreement at Hasan al-Qassab's farm had to do with business affairs. Salah and 'Ala' al-Qadi [not further identified] were also present. After the argument, Lu'ayy tried to get 'Udday's support. They opened fire on Watban and those who were with him.

[Shihab] Will you describe your trip from Baghdad to Amman?

[Kamil] As an Iraqi official I had freedom of movement. I am known and have good relations. I left normally in my car with my bodyguards in the afternoon, reached the border, and crossed into Jordan. The Jordanians had no prior knowledge of our arrival. It is customary that when we tell them we want to visit Amman, they send cars to escort and protect us. This time I chose not to tell the Jordanian officials because there might have been some coordination, and Baghdad might have said I am an agent in contact with U.S. intelligence services. The Iraqi regime levels accusations anyone who tells the truth about the situation in Iraq. They said I was an agent for foreign countries. That is why I decided to leave normally and in broad daylight. I had a large group of bodyguards. When I arrived in Amman, I told the group to return to Baghdad. The Jordanian authorities did not know about my arrival so they could not put a palace or a place to rest at my disposal. At 0400 [local time] we stopped a taxicab in central Amman and asked the driver to take us to a hotel. The taxi driver did not recognize me. We stayed in the hotel until morning. Then I called His Majesty King Husayn and told him what I did.

[Shihab] Reports say that at one time you told King Husayn about your disagreement with the Iraqi president. Is this true, and what was the disagreement about?

[Kamil] He had no prior knowledge. There was absolutely no disagreement. I told King Husayn about a disagreement regarding official business in the past. There is no personal disagreement between the Iraqi president and me. King Husayn said explicitly in his speech he did not know why we left.

[Shihab] Let us be more specific. Did King Husayn know about your decision to leave Baghdad in this manner?

[Kamil] No. He knew only after I met him in Amman, where he welcomed me. We thank him for this, and we appreciate the Jordanian people's stand. We have been accustomed to these kinds of stands by the Jordanian people.

[Shihab] Following your arrival in Amman, you said the Iraqi regime lost its credibility on the Arab and international level. Do you believe that a change in Iraq is inevitable and imminent?

[Kamil] All Iraqis, whether civilians or military, have removed themselves from the regime. The Iraqi society supported the regime in the past, but the policy of wars and the domestic policy reveal the regime has lost touch with reality. This has caused it to lose its credibility.

[Shihab] How do you see the situation in the Iraqi military establishment, especially in the Republican Guards and the group that belongs to Tikrit area?

[Kamil] The Republican Guards do not belong to the area of Tikrit. They are a huge force that includes soldiers and officers from all Iraqi governorates. The Republican Guards which I established include men from all Iraqi clans in the south, north, and the center. Presently all military units, including the Republican Guards and the Special Guard are growling and are waiting for the chance [to do something] due to the unimaginable irritation caused by the regime. A commander of division or corps cannot be sure about his post or even his life. You see him defending the regime, but in fact his position is different. I know them, I lived with them, and I have strong relations with them whether they are in the guards or the army.

[Shihab] Have you acquainted the Americans with the information you have? Have you met with representatives of Arab countries?

[Kamil] What kind of information do you mean?

[Shihab] Information about the Iraqi armament programs and the information that has been withheld.

[Kamil] I did not have contacts with the Americans although I want to have such contacts. I want to contact the Arab countries such as Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Syria, and I intend to contact the influential Western countries, led by the United States because it has great influence in our Arab region. As far as the weapons of mass destruction are concerned, my viewpoint is clear; we should present the information on these weapons because hiding them will only harm the Iraqi people. I repeatedly asked those concerned not to hide the information, but they insisted on maintaining their position, and the result was the continuation of the siege.

[Shihab] Did you have contacts with Arab countries?

[Kamil] Yes, I received invitations and I have contacts with several quarters although, thus far, these contacts have been modest. However, I intend to contact Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which are directly concerned with our situation. I will not exclude any country in the future and I will explain our position in full.

[Shihab] What is your information about the Kuwaiti Prisoners and missing persons?

[Kamil] The subject of Kuwaiti prisoners was not part of my authority, but I have a story about them and I will speak about the subject at the appropriate time.

[Shihab] Are they still alive in the Iraqi prisons?

[Kamil] The suitable time will come to reveal this subject in detail.

[Shihab] What about contacts with Damascus?

[Kamil] Yes, contacts were held with some officials through the Syrian Embassy in Amman and through some Iraqi opposition figures. I conveyed to them our good intentions toward Syria, and that we want to have serious relations with the Syrian brothers, and that I do not have sensitivities or differences with the brothers in Damascus contrary to the relations between the current regime in Baghdad and Damascus.

[Shihab] What were the replies to your messages?

[Kamil] I did not ask for anything from them, and the Syrian brothers thanked me for my position and expressed readiness to discuss any subject.

[Shihab] Baghdad accused you of stealing millions of dollars and of hiding information from the international inspection committees?

[Kamil] If you want to speak about the charges leveled against us, you will realize that nothing bad on earth has not been attributed to us, from stealing money to hiding information. These are baseless lies intended to distort our image within the Iraqi society. They think that the Iraqi society would believe their talk that Gen. Husayn Kamil had stolen money. I wonder what is the use of money while our kinsfolk and houses are in Iraq. I was an official in the Iraqi state and I occupied leading and prominent positions, so what money can tempt me to leave my country carrying money. In Baghdad, they know the one who withheld the information. They thought that they are holding me responsible for this before the Iraqi people and the world in order not to appear guilty and careless before their people.

[Shihab] Since your aim is to lift the embargo, will you try to reveal this information?

[Kamil] Recently, Baghdad has disclosed all the information. I am fully convinced of the importance of revealing everything connected with weapons of mass destruction, especially if a certain piece of information has not yet been revealed. As for conventional weapons, it is not my business at all to reveal anything in this regard because this is something that pertains to our army and should not be divulged to any party. Baghdad has revealed a lot of information, and it is on its way to revealing the rest of it.

[Shihab] Do you think the Americans are dealing with you cautiously?

[Kamil] I do not think so. I have never had bad intentions toward the Americans or toward Iraq. My intention is clear, and the aim is to rid the Iraqis, along with the entire region, of the real tragedy. Direct harm was inflicted on the region because of the conduct of the Iraqi regime. I have nothing that would arouse the sensitivity and caution of the Americans in dealing with me. Similarly, I have never had any personal sensitivities in dealing with the Americans. The United States is a big and strong country that has helped the Arab region on many occasions. One of the Iraqi regime's mistakes is that it chose to work with the Soviet Union and got involved in a regional and international conflict. Had it not been so, the region would have been much more stable.

[Shihab] Are there any U.S. demands or conditions on dealing with you?

[Kamil] There has been no contact with the Americans to date (Thursday). I have asked for a meeting. I do not think the Americans place any conditions on dealing with me. I had no other desire but to change the regime so that Iraq might become a safe, secure, and stable country that would interact positively, stay away from wars, and preserve regional balance. Iraq is a big country, and it is the only Arab state that has land borders with Iran. Sea water separates Iran from the other Arab states. We want to have positive relations with Iran. We do not seek conflicts with Iran, Turkey, or any other country.

[Shihab] Why are the Americans procrastinating in talking to you?

[Kamil] I am not in a hurry to meet with the Americans, and I do not believe that they are procrastinating. They are consulting with our Arab brothers, and that is normal.

[Shihab] Is it true that Iraq was about to conduct a nuclear test before it invaded Kuwait?

[Kamil] Yes, Iraq had the ability to conduct such a test and had enough enriched uranium for that purpose. However, estimations were that the matter should be put aside. Had Iraq planned such tests, it would have carried them out in three months and it would have possessed a nuclear bomb.

[Shihab] What are the financial sources on which Baghdad continues to rely to solve the problem of wages?

[Kamil] Baghdad gets credit facilities from certain countries.

[Shihab] What are these countries?

[Kamil] Some are indebted to Iraq, and others are extending credit facilities.

[Shihab] What are these countries?

[Kamil] This is a matter I do not want to discuss because it affects the interests of the Iraqi people one way or another.

[Shihab] It is said that Barzan al-Tikriti plays a role in administering the regime's financial networks abroad. Did you have any contact with him after you had left Iraq?

[Kamil] I object to contacts with Barzan. This is not possible, and he knows it. If I were to agree to such contacts, he would rush for one. Barzan knows that my relationship with him has been abnormal since 1979, and that I completely severed relations with him in 1981.

[Shihab] Why?

[Kamil] Barzan has a criminal record and is known to have harmed the citizens. Some people were hurt by him because he wanted to get their money, while others were hanged. He is not different from others in the regime.

[Shihab] What are his major activities?

[Kamil] They consist of crimes that are well known by the Iraqi society. He headed the intelligence services, and executed many Iraqi figures under flimsy excuses and under the pretext that they worked against the regime while in reality he executed them for personal reasons.

[Shihab] Who were these figures whom he executed?

[Kamil] They are many well known figures. I will not go into details now.

[Shihab] What mission does Barzan al-Tikriti have in Geneva?

[Kamil] Barzan does many things in Geneva. He works for the regime and is in daily contact with it. He also works against the regime. He hopes the regime will give him an important post but at the same time he works with international parties that could help him achieve what he wants. But, the most important point is that his presence in Geneva has to do with trade relations. He tries to send companies to Iraq and with assistance from within Iraq to get more commissions in addition to what he gets as salary, housing allowances and all the funds he needs from the state treasury.

[Shihab] Have his relations with the regime been affected following Watban's dismissal?

[Kamil] Barzan only cares for himself. He might have shown some displeasure at his dismissal to rally him to his side. But, his position is not affected by Watban or others. He views this as a way to get more respect for himself.

[Shihab] What about the Baghdad regime's relations with organizations and movements which are accused of terrorism?

[Kamil] These ties have continued with some Arab and Palestinian organizations but they have been cut with Abu-Nidal's movement.

[Shihab] What about the other organizations?

[Kamil] I do not wish to discuss this as this topic does not interest me.

[Shihab] What will be Saddam Husayn's fate if there is any change, and what plans do you have for such a change?

[Kamil] The plan is to prepare the Iraqis, whether civilians or military, for such a change. The most important thing to do is to transform Iraq into a secure and safe place, away from wars and conflicts and where everyone will live in peace, whether they are Arabs, Kurds, Shiites, or Sunnis. We must all keep away from divisions. We must not incite one party against the other. We want good relations with our neighbors, and when a problem arises we want to solve it calmly without resorting to the media or to armies as took place with Iran and Kuwait.

[Shihab] What will be the president's fate if you succeed in effecting a change?

[Kamil] It is difficult to predict this. The most important point is that he is removed from office. A new government should be formed that has nothing to do with the past. The people should be the ones to have their say in this field.

[Shihab] Did Saddam Husayn ever speak of his intention to step down from power?

[Kamil] Never. This is one of the situations which has placed him in a dilemma. That's why he has always shown intransigence.

[Shihab] On whom does he rely now?

[Kamil] He relies on the regime in its present configuration. However, he makes all the decisions and the others have to applaud and support these decisions.

[Shihab] Who are his most important aides?

[Kamil] It is difficult to name them. One does not know on whom he really depends. All those who achieve prominent positions are removed. He depends on a certain group with respect to finance, and on other groups in the army and the Republican Guards. He depends on no one in particular.

[Shihab] What role is 'Uddayy currently playing?

[Kamil] He has no responsibilities. He aspires to become head of state and to depose his father. He was given some responsibilities which he expanded. He is head of the Olympic Committee. But, what is taking place is that no ministry can employ someone without first getting his approval. This has never taken place in Iraq's history. He established Saddam's commandos. However, they do not like 'Udayy and he does not rely on them. 'Udayy is a madman who loves power and money.

[Shihab] You were in a position to terminate President Saddam Husayn. Why did you not do so and did you try?

[Kamil] I did not try. I could have done this but family relations prevented me from doing so. How can I do such a thing after he tasked me with assuming certain responsibilities? I view this as a shameful deed to my family and an action that is harmful to me. I never thought of this until I faced the world in Amman.

[Shihab] Is there someone who can now replace Saddam?

[Kamil] Iraq is a big country and has huge resources. Of course, it is possible to replace him, and there are people qualified for this post.

[Shihab] Did Saddam Husayn threaten to set Baghdad on fire if forced to leave it?

[Kamil] I heard nothing of the sort. He believes that such a thing will not happen.

[Shihab] Is there at present a double of the president who plays the president's role in certain occasions?

[Kamil] This never happened.

[Shihab] When did your wife, Saddam Husayn's daughter, and her sister know of your intention to leave Baghdad?

[Kamil] I told them 10 days before I left Baghdad. I told them I decided to leave in view of the bad situation, and they agreed to leave with us.

[Shihab] What was their reaction?

[Kamil] At first, they told me to be patient because things might change. They asked me to explain the situation to President Saddam Husayn. I told them that I did so in the past and that I am convinced that nothing will change and that matters have reached a dead end and that the only thing I had to do was to leave. They decided to leave with me.

[Shihab] What about the reports that they were doped?

[Kamil] This is not true. The bodyguards who accompanied us, whose number exceeded 30, know that I am saying the truth. Several of our children were also with us, and all know that we crossed the Iraqi borders in a normal manner.

[Shihab] Were there official Iraqi attempts to contact Israel?

[Kamil] Yes, there were attempts in 1978 carried out through a person named 'Abbud who resides in the United States. He is of Iraqi origin and is a bank director. But, in 1988, contacts began through Egypt and were later suspended.

[Shihab] What about recent contacts?

[Kamil] Yes, some of these contacts take place through Barzan al-Tikriti.

[Shihab] What about the other channels?

[Kamil] They exist. But, I do not know about them. There is talk in this respect.

[Shihab] What does the Iraqi president say about a settlement with Israel?

[Kamil] He wants to use it as a pressure card. But, he does not want to show the world and his people that he established relations at one time.

[Shihab] Which Arab countries or regimes does the Iraqi president hate the most?

[Kamil] Through my work with him, I noticed he hates them all, particularly Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt. He views the Arab leaders as weaklings and that the Arab people are ruled by force. The truth is that he is the one who rules his people by force. His hate of the Syrian president is well known and he has the same feelings toward the Palestinian president.

[Shihab] Do you plan to visit Arab countries soon?

[Kamil] Yes, I already mentioned this. The visits will be to help our present action and to explain our position. Iraq is an important country to the Arab countries.

[Shihab] What have you to say to the reaction of the Iraqi opposition to your moves?

[Kamil] The reaction by the opposition, except for a specific party, was not bad. This party has adopted such a stand for reasons beyond its control. One day, this party makes a positive statement and the next it makes a contradictory statement. As for the other members of the opposition, we have daily contacts with them and they support us. We work to have a positive relationship with all, to discuss all our problems, and to avoid any enmities among us.

[Shihab] What was the most important coup to overthrow the regime that has taken place over the last years?

[Kamil] This is a long story. Many attempts took place, and I do not believe that now is the appropriate time to discuss them in detail.

Husayn Kamil Says Regime To Fall Soon

NC2808191795 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] MBC telephoned General Husayn Kamil this evening. He asserted that the Iraqi regime will fall soon, noting a state of confusion prevails in Baghdad. He disclosed that the Iraqi leadership planned twice to invade Kuwait and the eastern part of Saudi Arabia.

Iraq is prepared for a change and the fall of the regime will be swift. This was stated by Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, who defected to Jordan, to MBC Television during a telephone call this evening. He refused to give details or dates.

[Husayn Kamil] *In fact, Iraq is prepared. Iraq is an Arab country that has many positive traits to resist any unsound rule. I do not believe it will take long, if we believe in what we are currently planning. I believe the regime will fall very fast.*

Gen. Husayn Kamil stressed that the Iraqi leadership planned twice to launch an offensive on Kuwait and the eastern part of Saudi Arabia.

[Husayn Kamil] *When the Iraqi regime sent military forces to al-Basrah in October 1994, there was swift Arab and international reaction to the move. The plan was for Iraqi military units to enter Kuwait and the eastern part of Saudi Arabia. After the international and Arab reaction, the Iraqi units were withdrawn and the situation returned to normal. The regime was preparing to enter these regions after the warning to the United Nations expired on 31 August. They believed that the United States was unable to assemble international forces as happened at the start of the Gulf War.*

Husayn Kamil spoke of a state of confusion within the Iraqi regime. He said:

[Husayn Kamil] *The Iraqi Government launched an arrest campaign and there were even executions. There have been a large number of arrests and changes in posts in the army, the Republican Guard, and state posts. This is now well known. There have also been other changes. Families of foreign embassy employees in Iraq have begun to leave Iraq and a number of foreign embassy officials have also left. Had the situation not been clear, these embassy officials would not have left so quickly.*

On the topic of the Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq, Husayn Kamil said:

[Husayn Kamil] The affair of the Kuwaiti POW's exists and we will announce it when the time comes. [end recording]

Saddam Reacts to U.S. Credibility 'Accusation'

JN2808135895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 28 GMT 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said the U.S. Administration's accusation that Iraq lacks credibility in its relations with the UN Special Commission is false. He added that this administration's history abounds with examples of lack of credibility in its relations with other countries and in implementing the UN Charter.

Addressing the 33d cabinet session, over which he presided, his excellency wondered: Where is the U.S. Administration's credibility when it publicly announces that even if Iraq implements Security Council Resolution 687, which is a known American decision, the United States will not lift the embargo imposed on Iraq? Is it credible for the United States to mass warships and troops in the Gulf and the Mediterranean under the pretext—which all leaders of the U.S. Administration and its allies know to be false—that Iraq is planning to invade Jordan, Kuwait,and Saudi Arabia?

The president added: Credibility in dealing with countries and international organizations cannot be granted by the United States because one cannot get blood out of turnip. Credibility, likewise, cannot be established by false media, by stands misleading public opinion or by threats to move fleets.

The president also said: They imagined the Iraqis were not aware of the dimensions of the new game. However, the evil aggressors were disappointed once again. The Iraqis, the people of steadfastness and confrontation, who showed coherence, vigilance, and clever reading of events and stands, will turn this game into another bubble.

The Council of Ministers discussed the latest political developments and the topics on its ordinary agenda and took the necessary decisions and measures regarding these topics.

Opposition Figure Urges Arabs To Oust Saddam

NC2708071695 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Hani al-Fukayki, deputy president of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, in London, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Husayn] Welcome to Voice of the Arabs, sir.

[Al-Fukayki] Thank you.

[Husayn] How do you view the defection of the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law?

[Al-Fukayki] All Arab brothers are aware of the sufferings and tragedies the Iraqi people have been going through since this regime took over in 1968. It has dragged Iraq into internal and external wars with neighbors and brothers, endangered Arab solidarity, changed and undermined the concept of inter-Arab relations, and, finally, endangered pan-Arab security and interests in the Gulf war and its aftermath. The regime, which is feeling more isolated each day and against which popular resentment rises more each day, is eroding from within. The inner circle has started to abandon the ship. I believe that the Arab brothers, heads of states, and Arab governments are required to rise above the sensitivities and narrow regional calculations and work together to save the Iraqi people and the country and return it to the Arab fold with a minimum of bloodshed and in a peaceful manner, which would better serve the interests of the Iraqi people and their future.

[Husayn] What do you mean by that, Mr. Hani?

[Al-Fukayki] I mean that the Arab brothers could put a swift end to the despotism, dictatorship, authoritarian rule in Iraq, and the disregard to the pan-Arab and Iraqi interests, oust Mr. Saddam Husayn and his closest associates from power, make room for a regime based on the supremacy of law and the rule of institutions, gradually return Iraq to its regional and Arab role, preserve Iraq's unity, and end the suffering of Iraqis. But to leave things as they are and favor the traditional Arab calculations and sensitivities may lead to disasters. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] How prepared is the Iraqi opposition to join this endeavor?

[Al-Fukayki] There are minimum demands for the Iraqi opposition in general and Iraqis in particular. We want a state of law, freedoms, and institutions. We want to preserve Iraq's unity and sovereignty in the region and maintain Iraq's regional and Arab role. We want Iraq to return quickly to the Arab fold. The Iraqi citizen's most urgent need now is security and food. So we also want a government capable of providing food and security to the people. The Iraqi opposition will deal with any ruler or oppositionist, whether those in power or the brothers who have recently arrived in Jordan, on the basis of a clear-cut program that meets the minimum goals of the Iraqi opposition. As I stated earlier, they include the establishment of a state of law, rehabilitation of the judicial system and of political life, democratic elections through which the people can express their opinions and demand their rights, a permanent Constitution, and all the other requirements of a democratic regime. We will deal with any person who is willing to achieve these goals within a reasonable period of time.

[Husayn] Do we conclude from this that you have made contacts or that you are about to make contacts with General Husayn Kamil or his brother Saddam Kamil?

[Al-Fukayki] Contacts of this sort have taken place and a brief comment has been made on Gen. Husayn Kamil's remarks. We welcome whomever leaves Saddam Husayn or whomever seeks to end the predicament of the Iraqi people and safeguard Iraq's unity. But there is an important point to make. Since the establishment of the Iraqi state, all Iraqi Governments have promised to give the people freedoms, democracy, food, and welfare. As you know, Iraq is rich in oil and agricultural resources. All the governments have failed to honor and have backtracked on these promises. Even the opposition parties and the parties that had a major role in Iraq's march failed to honor their promises to the people. Now the Iraqi people, and we are part of them, demand greater guarantees. We want to feel that these people are more sincere and more capable than the others of honoring these promises. As you know, democracy does not come from decisions by a higher authority and is not fulfilled by promises. Democracy is a system that everybody in the society must endeavor to apply. As I have already told you, moving toward democracy in Iraq will not come overnight and is not the people's main concern today. What the people want today is food and security. Perhaps we can achieve democracy within a reasonable period of time, which may take years. But this requires serious and sincere efforts and, most important, the backing of fraternal Arab states, such as Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf States, to safeguard Iraq's unity and help the Iraqis move toward a state of law and democracy. [passage omitted]

Editorial Attacks Foreign Broadcasts on Unrest

95LH0217A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Editorial by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Honor of Profession and Profession of Honor"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the Iraqi press family was celebrating the Iraqi press anniversary, Monte Carlo Radio broadcast last Wednesday evening a news report that seemed to be professionally strange because it lacked a source. This radio alleged that Abu-Gharib's radio transmitters had been assaulted; that clashes with tanks, artillery, and aircraft ensued; and that travelers on their way from Baghdad to Amman could hear the sounds of explosions!

Monte Carlo Radio listeners noticed that the existence of the "source" was doubtful. Else why would only those people, out of hundreds of people traveling between Baghdad and Amman daily, hear the explosions? If there had really been any sounds, they would have been heard by anybody traveling close to Abu-Gharib and by all inhabitants of Abu-Gharib and the adjacent areas. But such a thing did not happen. The strange professional character of the news report turned into questions about the true motives behind the transmitted report when a reporter of the AFP, which is the main news agency on which Monte Carlo Radio relies for its news reports, rushed to Abu-Gharib, toured the area, and dispatched a cable asserting that everything at the site of the alleged clashes was calm and normal and that there were no clashes, fighting, or artillery or bullet sounds.

But Monte Carlo Radio disregarded this cable and escalated the situation when it asserted that it was "certain" that large-scale clashes "were still" going on at Abu-Gharib. The surprising paradox is that the Monte Carlo Radio "working team," which broadcast and discussed the report, acknowledged that there was no evidence the report was sound. Still, the team went on to report that fighting was still going on.

Determined to complete presenting "its theatrical" despite all the evidence confirming the falseness of its information, Radio Monte Carlo crowned its deception on the following day by saying that the "clashes ended when the rebels were wiped out!" All Western information media and radios showed their reservation toward the Monte Carlo Radio report because it lacked a clear source and supporting evidence. Despite this, the Monte Carlo Radio's "working team" continued to be enthusiastic, as if it were part of a "major battle."

Why did this happen and what lies behind it? First and foremost, one has to be reminded of this radio's black history during and after the 30-country aggression against Iraq. This radio dismissed its honorable national reporters who refused to broadcast in their own voices false anti-Iraq information prepared in advance at Hafr al-Batin military operations center. Radio Monte Carlo officially and practically abandoned its claim to objectivity and impartiality when it became a part of the Western media that donned steel helmets, crawled into one of Hafr al-Batin's trenches, and contributed directly and openly to the war of aggression against Iraq. Thus, Monte Carlo Radio, London [the BBC], and the Voice of America deserved the name given to them by Ramsey Clark, a former U.S. Labor Secretary, who characterized them as "lapdogs of the Pentagon, the warmonger."

Whereas Monte Carlo Radio, in contrast with the BBC and the Voice of America, had been previously a radio sought after in Iraq because of its "impartiality, objectivity, and up-to-date information," it became during and after the aggression, in the opinion of every Iraqi who listened to it, a trumpet used by Western intelligence agencies and by petrodollars openly and without any circumvention.

Because Monte Carlo is aware of this general popular Iraqi conviction, it has tried since 1993 to recast its image, pretending that it has reconsidered its coverage of Iraqi developments and that it does not reiterate what the BBC and the Voice of America broadcast! Under the influence of some honorable workers who stayed with Monte Carlo Radio and who continued to struggle to tell the truth and to preserve their objectivity, objective signs and positions started to reemerge as of 1994, despite the fact that Saudi petrodollars finance many of Monte Carlo Radio's "activities." For example, Saudi Arabia paid a sum of $2 million for the airing of a single weekly program on Saudi Arabia, and they named the broadcasters who had to present it. Those broadcasters included individuals whose objectivity was spotless. But Saudi Arabia wanted to burn them and to soil their reputation.

However, strengthened possibilities that the blockade will be lifted, that most barriers between Iraq and other countries will fall, and that the United States will become a minority have motivated the forces hostile to the Arab nation to amass all their main and reserve powers to launch an all-out anti-Iraq propaganda campaign, with Monte Carlo Radio acting as the spearhead for this campaign, considering that it is "less hostile to Iraq." Thus, its reports would be more acceptable than the reports of the official trumpets of the evil empire (United States) and its satellite, the past evil empire (Britain).

There is no doubt that the orders for the latest Monte Carlo Radio reports have been issued by the CIA, certain French tendencies, and Saudi petrodollars with the aim to achieve two interconnected goals: First, create confusion and doubts about Iraq's domestic conditions so they will be used at the Security Council to support the false allegations about "instability" and "political persecution" in the country. The second goal is to try to set up barriers in the face of the strong French tendencies that call for normalizing relations with Iraq and to foil the endeavors to heal the wounds of recent years.

Hundreds of large, medium, and small French companies and major tendencies in the French political environment have been exerting open and strong pressure to eliminate all obstacles impeding the restoration of Iraqi-French relations. Therefore, it is normal that opposition would surface in France on the hands of NATO supporters and the Zionists, who worship the "green," i.e., the dollar, whether offered by Americans, Saudis, or others!

It is no secret that Monte Carlo Radio, which relies officially on external "support" and aid for its financing, has been besieged by the Saudi green for years. Therefore, it is not surprising that the Saudi-U.S.-Zionist corps operating in Monte Carlo would mobilize its forces to play a role hostile to the improvement of Iraqi-French relations.

What has happened in recent days is very beneficial to the Iraqi people because it has alerted them to the fact that once those who get soiled sell their conscience and voice to whomever pays the highest price, they remain prepared to sell this conscience and this voice again to whomever pays the highest price. Within this context, it must be emphasized that the phenomenon of using vile-by-all-criteria Arab mercenaries, whether by Monte Carlo or by other Western radios or papers that are hostile to the Arab nation, has begun to produce adverse effects after a period in which it produced tangible results. These people realize that they are vile and that they lack minimal humanity and purity of conscience. Therefore, they are prepared to dance to any tune that is played to them. This is in contrast with the genuine American, French, or British citizen who is distinguished by holding a position that supports his country. This is why this citizen does not fall victim to the problems of a dead conscience and of a soiled name.

Iraq, which has stood fast in the face of history's biggest war machine and which has foiled the endeavors of history's slyest and most intelligent propaganda and brainwashing machine, derides Monte Carlo's dwarfs and views them with utter ridicule and contempt because they have not learned from the experiences of the past five years. They have not realized that the future belongs to Iraq, not to others, and that hostility to Iraq is no less than hostility to all mankind. Iraq's enemies are a mixture of dirty monsters, the likes of which history has never known, and of weak creatures. The monsters have sunk their teeth into these creatures' necks so they will do their bidding without any hesitation. This mixture has filled the earth with heinous crimes against peoples and against man's dignity and freedom.

In an age when the U.S. rifle or dollar dominates the media "voices," it seems that the honor of the West's journalistic profession has become a memory of the near past. Whoever works in the Western propaganda machine has to accept a "gentleman's agreement," i.e., an unwritten agreement, that requires him to cancel his professional honor and to sell his conscience and his mind to the master who pays him.

This is why, since the 1970's in particular, Western media people have not been bragging about adhering to the journalistic profession's code of honor, especially to truthfulness, objectivity, honesty, freedom, and humanitarianism. Rather, they have acknowledged that the journalist is no more than a "screw" in a big and monstrous machine and that he has to "obey" and "implement." This is why we find that the Western journalist is rewarded in an unprecedented manner. This journalist has become a big and brilliant star who is feared by the West's heads of states and ministers. As a trained dog, this journalist's teeth and talons are ready to bite and scratch as soon as his "faceless" trainer gives him the order to "attack!"

As for Iraq, the Iraqi journalist has proven indisputably and inarguably that he adheres to the code of the profession firmly, especially in light of the mother of all battles. This journalist was exposed to death by shelling. He is still exposed to death as a result of the U.S. imperialist plotting, of the blockade, of starvation, and of disease in a world dominated by the imperialist West's "big" murderers and thieves. Despite this, the Iraqi journalist has not bowed his head and has not capitulated. He has continued to fight injustice with his pen, relying on his free will and on the world of honor he has given. He has decided to pay his life a price for this word of honor [sentence as translated]. A homeland cannot be sold, whatever the circumstances. The symbol of the homeland's honor, namely the leader, is topped by God's name only. A simple comparison between the Iraqi journalist's conditions, which have never been as difficult before, and the world journalists' less difficult conditions demonstrates the greatness and purity of the Iraqi journalist who has stood fast, fought, and refused to capitulate to the most dangerous blackmail in history. Meanwhile, we have seen and we continue to see the majority of the world's "media giants" bow their heads and alter their identity and their word.

With this spirit of struggle that brims with a liberal and humanitarian tendency, the Iraqi journalist has preserved the honor of the journalistic profession and has elevated journalism, making it the most honorable profession—a profession that does not permit journalists to bow their heads before international terrorism, material inducement, fear of death, or organized starvation.

Is there a greater honor than the honor of a journalist turning into a major advocate of liberty and respect for human dignity and for the sovereignty of states?

A greeting to the Iraqi journalist and to his steadfastness and his struggle to preserve "God's kingdom" on earth and to destroy the "devil's kingdom."

A greeting to President Saddam Husayn, the media and press patron, who has established guarantees and foundations that enable the Iraqi citizen to right freely and without any reluctance or fear of any party. This has enabled the Iraqi journalist to drive history's most dangerous tank—the tank of the word that splits diamonds and steel without breaking.

Paper: Baghdad 'Undeterred' by U.S. Troop Buildup

JN2908094595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0630 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA) — The newspaper AL-'IRAQ stresses that the U.S. record for championing falsehood, injustice, dishonesty, and untrustworthiness is disgraceful.

In an editorial today the paper adds that the U.S. Administration is resorting to its familiar media tactics by misrepresenting facts, misinforming people, distorting and falsifying facts, and making up lies in order to place a larger number of obstacles and obstructions in the way of any serious effort by the UN Security Council to lift the sanctions against Iraq, particularly since Iraq has honored all of its commitments in full as outlined in Resolution 687.

The paper adds: The United States has begun a deluge of false accusations about alleged Iraqi troop movements toward Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. It is using these lies as a cover for its intensive military movements and for the buildup of its fleets and battleships in the Arabian Gulf region and the Mediterranean.

The paper sheds light on President Saddam Husayn's statement at the cabinet's 33d session that the United States professes to be credible and insolently accuses Iraq of lacking credibility. The paper asserts that the United States is the last party that could have the right either to label others with loss of credibility or to grant them a good conduct certificate in accordance with its interests and ambitions as well as those of the monopolistic U.S. institutions and companies.

The paper adds: Iraq's credibility over the past 27 years can be seen clearly in its historic national and pan-Arab stands, and also in its accomplishments toward building a new sovereign, independent, free, progressive, and prosperous country. Iraq has created an unequaled model in fighting colonialism and Zionism and their evil plots to control the Arab nation's resources, crush its will, and kill its legitimate aspirations to determine its national and pan- Arab destiny.

AL-'IRAQ continues: By repeating its new lie regarding alleged Iraqi assault plans, the United States intends to deceive the U.S., Arab, and international public and to drag Iraq into a no-win situation carefully planned by the U.S. military and intelligence to coincide with preplanned military movements. This puts Washington in a pathetic role. It is engaged in a dirty conspiracy whose goals and motives are clear. It wants to tighten the imperialist noose around the neck of the Arabian Gulf in terms of geography, resources, peoples, and capabilities.

AL-'IRAQ concludes by saying: Despite the deluge of the unfair U.S. media campaigns and the threats reflected in the deployment of fleets, Iraq will forge ahead in its march regardless of the trivial and cheap allegations against it, undeterred by enemies and jealous parties. Iraq believes that the last chapter of the "unfair embargo" will inevitably collapse and reside in the trash can of history, because the will of those making history is stronger and firmer than the armies of the tyrannical and wrongful parties, who are the enemies of living nations.

Paper on U.S. 'Media Fuss,' Embargo

JN2908095695 Baghdad INA in English 0840 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 29, INA — The recent media fuss made by the U.S. about unusual Iraqi military movements has been no more than bubbles that soon burst and vanished in the air, the English language THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said on Tuesday.

When they realized that such a fuss had no concrete bases, the Americans changed their mind and announced that they had no evidence that Iraq was moving its army once to the north and later to the south. The U.S. secretary of state told reporters at the Pentagon that the U.S. was sending provisions and equipment to the Gulf as a support to its force there and as a precautionary measure towards any alleged Iraqi military movement.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti defense minister was quoted by the MBC TV network as saying he was sure there were no unusual movements among Iraqi brigades. He confirmed he was responsible for his words towards the amir, the crown prince, the Arab nation, and the international community.

In addition to these announcements, pressmen, diplomats and observers have all affirmed that they had noticed no sign of unusual military movements in the capital or elsewhere in Iraq.

It is not something new for the U.S. Administration to create anti-Iraq pretexts. Since the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq five years ago, the U.S. has been seeking to hamper any effort that could lead to the lifting of the unjust embargo imposed by UN Security Council on the Iraqis in August 1990.

Obviously it has become a habit of the U.S. to blow bubbles, that is releasing false statements just to preoccupy the world's public opinion for a while until it finds another toy to play with.

Such tactic has become worn-out. Instead of isolating Baghdad, the U.S. Administration itself has become isolated. The world public opinion is fully aware that the U.S. alone brings up from time to time pretexts to distort Iraq's reputation and provoke anti-Iraq sentiment.

When the U.S. changes its mind about its statements, it loses its credibility and this proves to the world that it is the only one who wants to ignite the [words indistinct].

Now that the U.S. aims have become clear, it is high time the world and especially friendly countries took a serious step to abort the U.S. plot against Iraq. The Iraqis, who have experienced hard times because of the five-year-long U.S.-orchestrated embargo, are looking forward to the world's support at the UN corridors to see an end to their sufferings and to the U.S. anti-Iraq designs.

Paper on U.S. 'Terrorist,' 'Colonialist' History

JN2608110295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0850 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has described the history of the U.S. policy as a terrorist and colonialist history of enslaving people and confiscating their human rights and freedom of self-determination.

In an article today entitled "Readings from the Records of U.S. Terrorism," the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH said: These records are replete with terrorist practices ranging from instigations and complicity in plots to actual participation in aggression, military invasions, using weapons of mass destruction, organizing coups and assassinations, and misinforming world public opinion in order to twist facts and prepare the atmosphere for terrorism and aggression.

The newspaper said that the early days of the American state demonstrate how the Americans exploited the black Africans in agriculture, making the United States the biggest slave market in human history, and later terrorized these people who knew only the language of the whip and the barrels of guns.

AL-QADISIYAH, which specializes in military affairs, noted the U.S. operations of direct invasions carried out since 1945, when the United States took upon itself the task of wiping out the democratic revolution of the Greek people, killing or injuring more than 350,000 Greek citizens. Then came the operations of expansion at the expense of its neighbors, beginning with Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada, Panama, and finally Haiti, not to mention what it did to Cuba.

The newspaper said that the United States was the first to use weapons of mass destruction against people by dropping atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. It used chemical and biological weapons and napalm bombs in its war against the Vietnamese people and contributed toward prolonging the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

The paper pointed out that the U.S. veto right has become one of the forms of terror against people's rights. This right was arbitrarily employed against all draft resolutions condemning the Zionist entity and preventing any resolution denouncing the United States itself or contradicting its interests.

The paper said that the greatest U.S. war of aggression in history was its Atlantic alliance aggression against Iraq in 1991 which was carried out under the cover of the so-called international legitimacy, an aggression which destroyed hospitals, schools, universities, residential areas, and civilian and religious establishments.

The paper added: The ugliest form of U.S. policy of terror has been the crime of unjust embargo imposed on Iraqi people which is now in its sixth year—an embargo which is the most dangerous of the weapons of the U.S. terrorist aggression, including those of mass destruction.

The paper said that the continuation of this embargo on Iraq and the threat to use the veto against any draft resolution by the UN Security Council members to end it not only lays bare the rabid U.S. terrorism but also proves the failure of its policies and plots against the Iraqi people's glorious and legendary steadfastness in the face of all the despotic U.S. terrorist methods.

Protest Submitted to Arab League on Jordan Denied

NC2908103595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1005 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, has stated that his country has not submitted any protest whatsoever to the Arab League about Jordan.

The Iraqi delegate said that a story recently published in a Jordanian newspaper to the effect that Iraq submitted an official complaint to the League about what he called Jordan's interference in Iraq's internal affairs is totally baseless.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent today, Dr. Nabil Najm expressed his country's concern about fraternal relations with Jordan and the rest of the Arab brothers.

Iranian Regime's 'Armament Fever' Criticized

JN2508190395 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
3 Aug 95 p 7

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "And the Iranian Rulers as Well"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The announcement by the Peace Research Center in Sweden that the Iranian regime tops the world list in military purchases did not come as a surprise to us. As a matter of fact, it did not contain anything new as far as we are concerned.

We were also not surprised by the recent report which was released by German intelligence about the Iranian regime's feverish attempts to purchase equipment for producing chemical warfare weapons. And, we will not be surprised if any intelligence agency, whether in the East or the West, publishes a report speaking about the Iranian rulers' endeavors to hire experts and obtain advanced technology in the nuclear arms field!

Indeed, we will not be surprised by any report or dispatch of this type, because we know that the ayatollahs' regime, which is motivated by the delusions of power and the dreams of expansion and domination, is looking for both conventional and strategic weapons. We also know that the Tehran regime has been afflicted with this armament fever since 8 August 1988, the first day of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iranian War, when it suffered a crushing and total defeat. Therefore, we are not exaggerating when we say that during the past seven years, the Iranian regime has spent the best part of its resources and oil revenues on purchasing weapons and military hardware!

It is fully obvious that the ayatollahs' regime, which had criticized the Shah's regime for running after conventional and non-conventional weapons, has not learned any lessons from its own experience or that of its predecessor, the Shah's regime. It did not understand, and it does not want to understand, that spending Iran's resources and oil revenues on arms means the destruction and depletion of the Iranian economy, and that this trend would adversely affect Iran's already bad internal conditions by making them even worse and creating more crises and social, economic, and political problems.

The Iranian rulers are wrong to imagine that the weapons which they are piling up could prolong their regime, as the Shah had imagined before them. These weapons are largely responsible for the mounting Iranian resistance and the expansion of its influence and activity. The ayatollahs do not want to understand, because they still follow an erroneous and destructive course. Besides, what have they done with the military arsenal which they inherited from the Shah's regime? Where also are the weapons which they received from Zionists and the arch Satan?

Indeed, where are all those weapons?!

Tribal Chiefs Pledge Loyalty to Saddam

JN2508190995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by AL-THAWRAH corrspondents]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tribal and clan chiefs in al-Ta'mim Governorate have renewed their pledge to the commander of the faithful gathering, leader President Saddam Husayn, that they remain at his disposal to defend great Iraq and continue the march of construction and Jihad on the path of honor and glory.

This came during a large gathering in Kirkuk attended by comrade Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of party organizations in the governorates of Salah al-Din and al-Ta'mim; Mahmud Fayzi al-Hazza', governor of al-Ta'mim; comrade Ahmad hasan al-'Ubaydi, secretary of our party branch leadership in the governorate; and members of the leadership.

Comrade al-Ahmad conveyed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the people of al-Ta'mim Governorate coupled with his excellency's best wishes for their continued might and dignity. He affirmed that our victorious revolution, which has made great achievements for the sons of our great people, will remain lofty and unaffected by enemy plots.

The masses of al-Qadisiyah also pledged to President Saddam Husayn that they remain one rank in defense of our dear Iraq. The masses affirmed in a great procession, which marched through the streets of al-Diwaniyah, their readiness to make more sacrifices and to march behind the flag of Allahu Akbar which is carried by struggler President Saddam Husayn in order to make the final historic crossing.

The procession ended outside Government House, where it was received by comrade Radi Hasan Salman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of party organizations in the governorates of al-Najaf, al-Qadisiyah, and al-Muthanna; Tariq Fayzi al-Hazza', governor of al-Qadisiyah; and comrade Muhammad 'Isa 'Awdah, secretary of our party branch leadership in al-Qadisiyah.

The masses in al-Samawah, al-Muthanna Governorate, renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal soldiers in defense of great Iraq. The masses affirmed in a procession which marched through the streets of the city, their full readiness to make any sacrifices and to devote their capabilities and resources to achieving the final crossing to the bank of dignity and honor.

The procession was received by comrade Radi Hasan Salman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of party organizations in the governorates of al-Najafa, al-Qadisiyah, and al-Muthanna; Iyad Khalil Zaki, governor of al-Muthanna; and the comrade secretary and members of the party branch leadership in al-Muthanna.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of party organizations in the governorates of al-Basrah and Dhi

Qar hailed the public rally which was held by thousands of residents in the Districts of Saddamiyat al-Qurnah and al-Madinah to express their affection for and loyalty to the beloved leader Saddam Husayn.

The people of the two districts taking part in this rally, which was also attended by the governor al-Basrah, the comrade deputy secretary and members of the party branch leadership, tribal and clan chiefs and notables affirmed through songs and cheers that they remain kinsmen of the symbol leader and that they will continue to march behind his high-waving flag on the path of the crossing.

Opposition Says Helicopters Fly Near Irbil

NC2608155195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The weekly newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, mouthpiece of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], published today, reports that on Friday, 25 August, two helicopters belonging to the dictatorial regime crossed the 36th Parallel and flew over the area of [name indistinct], the soap factory, and (Sahl Shamamil) near the town of Irbil but did not strafe the area.

PUK Radio Reports Attacks by KDP Forces

NC2608155895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] gunmen shelled Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga positions near Pirzin and in the Pirzin residential complex at 2000 yesterday. The bombardment continued until midnight last night.

KDP gunmen also directed machine-gun fire at Rawandoz at 2000 yesterday. At 0930 today they shelled the city. PUK peshmerga did not return the fire.

KDP Radio Reports PKK 'Surprise Attack'

JN2608202395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1810 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sons of the Kurdish people in general and people of the Iraqi Kurdistan in particular, political parties and forces in Kurdistan, heroic peshmerga, militant citizens: The PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] does not have any justification or legitimate right to conduct military activities within the boundaries of the Iraqi Kurdistan region. All Kurdish political parties and forces support the good offices exerted by international quarters to restore legitimacy and establish peace in Iraqi Kurdistan. However, for several days, the PKK terrorist leadership, the agents of foreigners, who receive their orders from the enemies, have been spreading venomous allegations against the peace efforts, the Ireland agreement, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]. Pursuing a carefully-devised plan, the PKK media and leadership have been threatening to start fighting against the KDP. Any honorable Kurd is aware of their stand, which is ordered by the enemies of Kurds.

Amid these delicate circumstances, and at this time in particular, the PKK gunmen launched a simultaneous surprise attack on about 20 administrative and civilian sites, party offices, villages, and public roads on the night of 25-26 August. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of a number innocent civilians in the region, including women and children. The areas that were targeted by the PKK gunmen's surprise attack were the office of the Zakho local committee in the (Hasalafa) village, the Darkar 'Ajam area, the Zakho waterfall, (Baytufa) and (Batafa), Sarsank, Bamirni, the areas affiliated with the boundaries of the (Khabark) local committee, al-'Amadiyah, the al-'Amadiyah checkpoint, (Berunok), (Silavok), (Mazori Bala), Mirga Sur, the second Sirwan local committee, and the (Darbi) and (Shamah) committees. The attack also included a number of other points in the (Bahdilan) area.

However, thanks to the peshmerga efforts and the courage of the masses of the region, the PKK terrorist attack was repulsed in most areas, where the PKK remnants were chased. According to preliminary information, the PKK terrorist attack resulted in the martyrdom of six citizens, including women and children. This attack has aroused the anger and indignation of the region's masses, who expressed their readiness to respond to this treacherous, terrorist PKK attack.

On this occasion, we warn the PKK misled gunmen that they must dissociate themselves as soon as possible from the PKK leadership's evil intentions. Although this leadership has been conducting military actions for 11 years, it has not managed to liberate an inch of Turkish Kurdistan. Therefore, it has come to punish innocent citizens in Iraqi Kurdistan for its defeats. This leadership has been ordered to do so by the enemies of the Kurds to foment a new civil war. We place the Kurdish political parties and forces before their historic responsibility toward the terrorist and criminal behavior of the PKK gunmen. They have no right whatsoever to exercise their armed activities inside Iraqi Kurdistan. The mere presence of their gunmen inside Kurdistan is illegitimate. Yet, they have launched military attacks on the institutions of the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

PKK Said Responsible for Attack Repercussions

JN2708201795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Press release by Kurdistan Democratic Party spokesman on 26 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the third branch of our Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] in London issued the following press release:

At the time when the Kurdish people everywhere, the Iraqi opposition movement, and the friendly governments were welcoming the initial agreement signed between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Ireland on 11 August 1995 — which set a framework and a basis for addressing all the complicated issues to achieve national reconciliation and peace in Iraqi Kurdistan — the Kurdistan Workers Party, PKK, launched an armed, premeditated attack against some KDP positions in the Dahuk Governorate on the night of 25-26 August.

PKK gunmen launched simultaneous attacks on 20 party and administrative sites in Zakho, (al-'Aradiyah), Sarsank, and Mirga Sur. They also tried to take control of the roads in the area. As a result of this aggression, a number of innocent Christian citizens were killed in Sarsank. Most of these attacks were repulsed by KDP fighters. At dawn today, KDP regained control of all the roads and the sites which were attacked.

This aggression comes to abort and undermine the agreement on principles reached in Ireland under the auspices of the U.S. Government,

We declare that the PKK is fully responsible for the repercussions of this flagrant aggression. The plans and attempts of the PKK and those who stand behind it to undermine the peace march in Iraqi Kurdistan will fail.

[Signed] A KDP spokesman

[Dated] 26 August 1995

PKK Captures KDP Military Bases; Fighting Intensifies

NC2808165495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to news reports, fierce clashes have occurred between followers of the Kurdistan Workers Party, the PKK, and Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] forces in several areas in (Bahdinan), particularly on the axis of the (Sarfang) resort.

The reports add that in the past few hours PKK followers seized 18 military bases out of the 21 bases belonging to the KDP and captured 64 KDP members, including a large number of officials.

International news agencies yesterday quoted KDP sources as saying that PKK forces attacked several KDP posts on Saturday night [26 August].

Monte Carlo radio quoted a KDP spokesman in Turkey as saying that the KDP will not accept the PKK's presence in the areas under its control.

[In a related item, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1542 GMT on 28 August reports: "Fighting intensified today between gunmen belonging to Mas'ud Barzani's KDP and gunmen from the Turkish PKK led by Abdallah Ocalan. The clashes spread from the Turkish-Iraqi border to towns deep inside the Kurdistan region in northern Iraq including al-'Imadiyah, 'Aqra, and (Bamirni). Travelers from northern Iraq told MENA's Baghdad correspondent that more than 30 people have been killed and hundreds wounded in the fierce fighting that occurred yesterday and this morning. They said that the fighting is still continuing and all types of weapons are being used, including Katyushas."]

TV Broadcast Development Plans Described

95LH0216A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 28 Jun 95 pp 16-17

[Interview with Engineer Dr. Rihab Abd-al-Qadir, head of the Ministry of Culture and Information's Engineering and Technical Authority, by Najla' Qadir; place and date not given: "Plans and Steps To Develop Television Transmission; With Radio and Television Transmission Strugglers"—first six paragraphs are ALIF BA' introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Words of praise flowed from his mouth for an excellent program shown on the small screen recently. He lauded the efforts of those who produced and presented the program and thanked God for this amazing invention (television). He did not forget to commend everybody who took part in delivering the program. But he forgot unknown soldiers without whom we would not have seen anything, namely the (transmission engineers). We remember these people here, and we pause at the various steps and junctures of their persistent daily work.

Radio and television transmission is a humanitarian service that the Ministry of Culture and Information provides. The task of providing this service was assigned to the ministry's Engineering and Technical Authority in 1987 when the Radio and Television Department's work mechanism was separated from that of the Engineering Authority. Thus, the Radio and Television Department workers' effort was confined to developing and producing radio and television programs while the Engineering and Technical Authority assumed the task of transmitting the signals through which viewers see the image.

ALIF BA' has taken the opportunity of its interview with Engineer Dr. Rihab Abd-al-Qadir, the authority chairman, to shed light on the strugglers who work silently behind the scenes and on their role, of which television viewers and radio listeners are unaware.

To start, the engineering doctor talked about correcting the citizen's notion that transmission work is part of the Radio and Television Department's jurisdiction. He said:

"The citizen believes that what is broadcast on the small screen and on radio is the task of the Radio and Television Department currently and was so in the past. But the fact is that this task belongs to the creative efforts of the technical engineers of the Ministry of Culture and Information's Engineering Authority. This authority's work was separated from the Radio and Television Department's work in 1987, at which time the work of both sides was still interlocked. As of that date, the authority's work was defined as the transmission of radio and television signals through a distinguished and special technical cadre and from a separate premise. This is the authority's most important duty. The Radio and Television Department's duties were confined to the production of radio and television programs. This department has no connection with technical issues."

[Qadir] Has the separation led to overlapping work or to problems between the two sides?

[Abd-al-Qadir] No, because the authority's responsibility is technical supervision of all of the ministry's engineering affairs. Any overlapping of engineering work between the ministry's engineering cadre and the broadcasting cadre is settled through instructions issued by joint committees from both sides to define the duties of each side.

[Qadir] In what condition are the transmission stations since the 30-country aggression?

[Abd-al-Qadir] Both phases of the 30-country aggression targeted most radio and television stations. However, the strugglers have restored life to more than 95 percent of the buildings. During the reconstruction period, the Ministry of Housing and the Military Industrialization Authority took part in building television towers. Moreover, the authority repaired and moved radio and television transmitters, along with all their accessories—including air conditioners and generation equipment (big electricity generators)—relying on its specialized engineers and technicians. Meanwhile, the authority carried on with its duty of securing the requirements to keep the stations in constant operation, to supply them with reserve materials, to train workers, and to test the efficiency of the stations' radio and television transmission.

[Qadir] It is noticed that transmission by Channel 7 and Channel 9 reaches most governorates whereas transmission by the cultural channel does not. What is the possibility that the country will be covered by television transmission?

[Abd-al-Qadir] Channel 9 and Channel 7 exist no longer. The first has become the General Program, and the second has become the Youth Television. Channel 12 has become the Cultural Program. Youth 2 has become the Second Youth Channel. This is the case in Baghdad. But conditions vary in the other governorates. Generally, two channels, namely the First Program and the Youth One, reach all governorates. At present, Channel 3, Youth 2, and the Cultural Channel are confined to Baghdad, a part of Diyala Governorate, northern Wasit Governorate, Babil Governorate, Karbala', and southern Salah-al-Din Governorate.

[Qadir] Why?

[Abd-al-Qadir] Because of the lack of technical capability as a result of the blockade. However, a plan has been developed in coordination with the Ministry of Transport and Communications to deliver the television signal of more than just these channels to all parts of the country.

[Qadir] Citizens in most governorates complain of irregular transmission and of interference and lack of clarity at times. What is the reason for this, and are there plans to improve transmission quality?

[Abd-al-Qadir] Most problems citizens encounter with reception are because citizens do not use the regular aerial allotted for the transmission beam targeted at their governorate. To overcome this problem, a plan has been developed with the Military Industrialization Authority to produce a special kind of aerials for governorates covered by the (UHF) beam, such as Diyala, Salah-al-Din, al-Basrah, Dhi Qar, and al-Qadisiyah governorates. These governorates in particular will be supplied with a small-size variety of the said aerials. A joint committee from the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Information will determine the need of each district and subdistrict that experiences poor reception so as to supply a large number of these aerials.

[Qadir] Border areas in all parts of the world receive the television transmission of neighboring countries. To what extent do we transmit to neighboring countries, and for how long?

[Abd-al-Qadir] Our national transmission penetrates all neighboring countries up to a distance of 50-200 kilometers, depending on land contours. Flatland areas get better transmission, of course. In return, their transmission reaches us, penetrating to the same distance. As for radio transmission, it reaches most Arab countries on medium and short waves. Special programs in English and some other languages, such as Turkish and Farsi, are beamed to Europe, Iran, and Turkey.

(The authority chairman went on, explaining our transmission and reception, saying:) By virtue of its physical limitations, television transmission may reach as far as 100-200 kilometers from the transmitting station. Therefore, it is confined to border areas of neighboring countries. There are cases where television transmission is received at far distances. But such transmission depends on rare weather conditions, and it is not regular. In this decade, television transmission by satellite has proliferated. Such transmission can cover most parts of the world, depending on a country's transmission and reception plan.

[Qadir] The small screen in his excellency the chairman's office has attracted my attention with its transmission of a film on the African world, bringing to mind a question on how to counter the deluge of foreign television transmission appearing on our small screen through satellites. What has the authority done to prohibit hostile programs from being thrust upon our citizens?

[Abd-al-Qadir] (His excellency the authority chairman laughed, saying:) To counter the perils of information invasion though space, the ministry relies on positive information; i.e., on selecting the appropriate programs for each channel and transmitting them for cultural, medical, scientific, and artistic purposes. The ministry transmits these programs in a manner that befits the nature of the citizen's social character under this circumstance that has been created by the unjust blockade. The blockade has deprived our viewers of cultural programs and has blocked scientific publications. Therefore, we try assiduously to broadcast to our viewers a few of these programs that we get by satellite, depending on the circumstances. Since 1992, the government has been implementing a plan to transmit international programs delivered by satellite locally. We select from satellite transmission channels that serve the Iraqi viewer. This can be observed in the programs that are transmitted by the General Program, Youth and Culture, and Youth 2 channels.

[Qadir] In some countries, cable television transmission is provided in return for a subscription paid by the citizen. Are there plans for such a project in Iraq, and what are the current obstacles facing this project?

[Abd-al-Qadir] A study has been conducted on such a project. However, it is difficult to implement at present because we need special cables that are connected to every home. Else, we will need to use coded transmission in return for a subscription that the citizen pays for transmission delivered to his home. What I mean is that the equipment for such a project is very expensive. We hope to implement it in the future.

What Do You Know About Television Transmission and Reception?

Radio frequencies, which cover a wide range, are used to transmit television images. In Iraq, VHF and UHF frequencies are used for television transmission from our stations that are spread throughout the country.

Both VHF and UHF frequencies are divided into frequency beams, and each frequency includes a number of transmission channels, as shown in the following chart:

Frequency Beams

Transmission Scope	Frequency Beam	Channel Numbers	Observations
VHF	First Beam	Channels 2, 4	This beam is not used in Iraq
	Second Beam	FM Channel, Radio	Used to transmit radio programs in country
	Third Beam	Channels 5-12	This beam is used in Iraq
UHF	Fourth Beam	Channels 21-41	Iraq relies on this beam for Transmission
	Fifth Beam	Channels 42-69	This beam is not used in Iraq

This is why any television set needs an aerial, regardless of how far or close it is to the transmission station. Most often, an internal aerial is not enough to show a clear image on the screen. Therefore, an external aerial has to be used with the special television cable to provide a good and clear picture that is free of "freckles." This aerial has to be connected to a single television set or to a distribution system, if more than one set exists. The following factors must be observed to get a clear image:

1. Select an aerial befitting the VHF or UHF transmission beam.

2. The aerial must be installed at an appropriate elevation and far from interference sources, such as power lines. An aerial's avenue must also be free of trees and buildings that impede good reception.

3. Use a television aerial with a connection head (plug).

4. Aim aerial in the direction of the transmission source or in a direction that ensures an image free of freckles (noise).

Rabin: Red Lines Must Be Clarified Before Accord

TA2808160795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says before negotiations open on a permanent settlement with the Palestinians the Labor Party will have to make clear to the Israeli public what its red lines are. Speaking to 10 dovish Labor Knesset members, Rabin said he would insist that the Jordan Valley remain Israel's security border line.

Rabin: Efrat Settlement To Remain Part of Nation

TA2908050195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the settlement of Efrat is located in a place which, he believes, should remain part of Israel in a final settlement with the Palestinians.

The prime minister made this clear in a letter of reply he sent to one of Efrat's residents who had complained about the settlement's uncertain future. The Prime Minister's Office has confirmed the sending of the letter. The recipient of the letter told Israel Radio he was requested not to release its contents until last night.

Jericho Closure Criticized, 'Slightly Eased'

TA2808183895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry sharply criticized the continued closure on Jericho. Senior sources told our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik that Israel is making every possible political mistake over the issue. The Jericho closure imposed many obstacles to the resumption of the talks with the Palestinians in Elat today, which were only renewed toward sundown and even then not with all the teams. [passage omitted]

The Jericho closure will be slightly eased starting tomorrow. Women, children, and men over the age of 35 will be permitted to leave the town.

[Later in the newscast, Police Minister Moshe Shahal is asked by announcer Hayim Yavin about the Foreign Ministry criticism of the closure, to which Shahal replies: "I know the reasons for the closure, and I think they are totally justified." Asked whether the closure will continue, Shahal says: "As long as it is needed. It was imposed for security reasons and not as a punitive measure."]

Knesset Plenum Discusses Security Situation

TA2808161595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Knesset held a special session today, which dealt mostly with the security situation and the bus bombing in Jerusalem a week ago. Knesset Member [MK] Rehav'am Ze'evi threatened retaliation against Israeli police. Deputy Speaker Dov Shilansky was criticized for wearing a tag identifying him as a hunger striker. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Moledet MK Rehav'am Ze'evi, who once said he would shoot at Palestinian police, today spoke out against the force used by Israeli police on right-wing protesters. He said demonstrators should ignore police who do not have name tags. He threatened to blacklist members of the police force when the right returns to power, and he said that if the police use tear gas at protests it would be as though they were using live ammunition and that the response would be in kind. [passage omitted]

The Law Committee is to seek clarifications from the police on whether it overstepped its bounds last week in stopping buses of right-wing sympathizers heading for Jerusalem and preventing passengers from getting off. The Law Committee heard the complaint this morning of National Religious Party MK Yitzhaq Levi. Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker of Meretz says the police must act within the law, even when dealing with groups such as Zo Artzenu which themselves break the law. [passage omitted]

In the plenum debate, Cabinet Ministers Moshe Shahal and Yosi Sarid defended the government's policies. Prime Minister Rabin stepped into the plenum to hear Shahal speak, sat down in his chair, and then left after the police minister finished, uncharacteristically remaining silent as opposition and coalition members exchanged accusations around him. [end recording]

Expert on Implications of West Bank Withdrawal

BR2808113895 Milan L'ESPRESSO in Italian 4 Sep 95 pp 76-7

[Interview with Zeev Shiff, 'Tel Aviv's most well-known military expert,' by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "With 'Arafat on the Left Bank" — first paragraph is L'ESPRESSO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a few weeks the Jewish state is due to withdraw its troops from the cities and the 420 villages on the West Bank. Armed Palestinian policemen will enter those areas. The rest of the occupied territories — settlers' communities and uninhabited land

— will remain in Israel's hands for now, until the beginning of negotiations on the definitive arrangements for the West Bank and Gaza. The extremists on both sides have declared war on this accord, but even moderate public opinion — Israeli and Palestinian — is unsure. For instance, in certain areas Yasir 'Arafat's patrols will overlap with the soldiers of the Jewish state. L'ESPRESSO asked Zeev Shiff, Tel Aviv's most well-known military expert, for his opinion on this accord.

[L'ESPRESSO] What are the accord's main implications for the security of both sides?

[Shiff] First of all, one of the cornerstones of the Oslo accord — the very first accord between Israel and Yasir 'Arafat's PLO — has been reiterated: For the time being the settlements will not be touched. And this, despite the fact that Israel is well aware that it will have to dismantle or amalgamate the Jewish settlements in the runup to the final stage in the talks. On the ground both sides will in practice be able to move around the streets as they please. This implies that there is the constant possibility of conflict. Thus what will occur is the sort of situation no military commander would like to have to tackle, namely different armed forces operating in the same territory with different assignments.

[L'ESPRESSO] What is the greatest risk inherent in the new situation?

[Shiff] Practical implementation of the accord will be very complicated and the extremists on both sides obviously constitute the greatest risk. But if the Palestinian police force proves equal to the situation, we will see a process in which the majority of settlers returns to a normal daily life. Right now they are very worried about their future personal safety; if their fears are shown to be unfounded, things will calm down and the majority will accept the new situation, albeit without too much enthusiasm.

[L'ESPRESSO] How do you think the thorny issue of Hebron, where the settlers live in the middle of an Arab city, can be resolved?

[Shiff] Hebron is a huge problem and it has become so because it has been raised to the status of a symbol. It can be resolved with concessions on both sides. A way must be found to isolate the settlers by grouping them together in one area. But in Hebron there are extremist settlers who are opposed to the accord in general and thus it is unlikely they will agree to any compromise. The government must be very firm in demanding that the accord be respected on all sides. It is crucial that Israeli citizens should feel safe everywhere. The accord's fate depends on that and I believe that we will have to go through some difficult times before a certain measure of stability is reached.

Likud Chairman: Oslo Agreement 'Not Binding'

TA2908095295 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
29 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu stated yesterday that "the Oslo agreement is not binding on any Israeli government," and that a government led by him would not honor the agreement signed by the government led by Yitzhaq Rabin. Netanyahu made these remarks when he visited the hunger strikers' encampment in the Rose Garden opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu and other opposition members visited the encampment in the morning, before the special Knesset session, to express their solidarity with the participants in the hunger strike which went into its sixth day yesterday. Opening the debate, Netanyahu condemned police violence against right-wing protesters, saying it was "a direct consequence of the left-wing government's policy of mouth-shutting."

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan added that "any clause that in our opinion contravenes the national interest will be abrogated immediately after the next elections."

The session decided on cooperation among the opposition parties and announced the establishment of a new body made up of the leaders of the opposition parties, "The Opposition Heads' Forum," which will henceforth lead the struggle against the government and the implementation of the Oslo Accords. The forum will include Binyamin Netanyahu, Refa'el Eytan, Zvulun Hammer of the National Religious Party, Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet, Avraham Verdiger of Agudat Yisra'el, and Avraham Ravitz of Degel Hatora.

Ze'evi suggested several ideas for stepping up the protest actions in anticipation of the signing of the Oslo B agreement. Demonstrations and road blocking throughout the country are planned for the day of the signing ceremony. The participants also talked about "a new stage in the opposition to the government," which will include a strike in various business sectors on the day of the signing and declaring it a day of national mourning on which the public will be called upon to drive their cars with their lights on and to fly Israeli flags adorned with black ribbons.

The hunger strikers also announced that they will take upon themselves the security of the settlers "if they are abandoned by the government," and denounced "the lamentable, cynical, and political" use the government made of the Israeli Police. [passage omitted]

Likud's Shoval: Labor Acquiescing to Syria

BR2908071995 Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE in Italian 26 Aug 95 p 5

[Interview with Likud Party Foreign Relations Chief Zalman Shoval by Ugo Tramballi in Jerusalem; date not given: "Likud: Priority is Israel's Security" — first two paragraphs are IL SOLE-24 ORE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — "A Likud government would not occupy Gaza again but neither would it allow the Strip to become a safe refuge for terrorists." Zalman Shoval, Israel ambassador to Washington during the Gulf War and now the Likud Party's foreign relations chief, explained what will happen to the peace process if Israel has a conservative government in a year's time.

"In general terms, a Likud government will stress Israel's security prerogatives in the territories. We will offer the Palestinians complete autonomy except in security and foreign policy matters. We will look favorably on an association of Judea and Samaria with Jordan, if the latter so wishes. We will continue the peace process along the lines of the Camp David agreement and the Madrid Conference. We will negotiate with any democratically elected Palestinian leadership in the territories that accepts Israel, renounces violence, and abandons the Palestinian Charter's appeal for our destruction."

[Tramballi] What about your peace agreement with Syria?

[Shoval] There is a fundamental lack of symmetry between Syria's approach and Israel's. For Syria, peace is a price that must be paid in order to realize its interests in Lebanon and with the United States. Israel's Labor government considers its acquiescence to Syria's demands the price to be paid for peace. This has weakened Israel's position in advance: If there is an agreement, it will be almost completely on Syria's conditions.

[Tramballi] Is the Likud Party in favor of the principle of "land in exchange for peace"?

[Shoval] This is a coded expression that was never part of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. According to the American and Israeli viewpoint, our total withdrawal (from the territories occupied after the Six-Day War of June 1967 — IL SOLE-24 ORE editor's note) is incompatible with those resolutions. A possible withdrawal must be connected to security issues, which rule out the possibility of an Israeli return to the vulnerable situation that existed before 1967. And this is the Likud Party's position.

[Tramballi] Does the Likud Party also believe that it now no longer has any substantial differences from the Labor Party, apart from the issue of the peace agreement to be reached with the Arabs?

[Shoval] We have no ideological fixed boundaries in our social and economic policies. In practical and philosophical terms, however, Laborites are more in favor of the government's involvement in the economy. The Likud Party, especially now, is more oriented toward the market. The only way for Israel to be able to pursue its own economic path in the 21st century is through the almost total dismantling of government control and interference.

Labor's Svili on Peace Process: Likud 'Extremists'

BR2908071895 Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE in Italian 26 Aug 95 p 5

[Interview with Labor Party Secretary Chaim Svili by Ugo Tramballi in Jerusalem; date not given: "Labor: Key to Elections in Negotiations" — first paragraph is IL SOLE-24 ORE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — Is it true that only the Arabs differentiate between the Labor and Likud Parties? "It is difficult now to say that we are more socialist than the Likud: Manual workers vote for them, and white-collar workers vote for us. Yes, the real difference is how we behave with respect to the Arabs." In his small but crowded office in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, Labor Party Secretary Chaim Svili explained how peace is changing many things in Israel.

[Tramballi] Mr. Svili, how would you describe the Labor Party today?

[Svili] A political force prepared to pay for peace with a possible defeat in next year's elections. We believe that there is a new situation in the Middle East, a significant change of strategy on the part of the Arab countries: They do not sympathize with us, but they have realized that it is impossible to destroy Israel by force of arms. Our job is to achieve peace. Perhaps we will not succeed, but we must do our utmost.

[Tramballi] And how would you describe the Likud?

[Svili] Extremists. Even in Begin's day they were right-wingers, but they were mainly politicians. Not the new generation. You cannot say that they do not want peace: It is that they do not believe in it; they do not believe that the Arabs can change.

[Tramballi] At one time there were other, more ideological and economic, differences between the Labor and Likud Parties.

[Svili] Even today we invest more than they do in the human factor, in education and social fields. Our government prefers to develop the Negev and Galilee regions, rather than Judea and Samaria.

[Tramballi] But you still return to peace with the Arabs. Do you not believe that it is dangerous for the Laborites to work too hard on this? The government has raised great expectations of peace; but the reality is difficult negotiations interrupted by attacks.

[Svili] Many Labor leaders too wonder whether we are moving in the right direction. But it will change: People realize that there is no alternative to the peace process.

[Tramballi] But meanwhile the Rabin government does not enjoy much support.

[Svili] Over a year before the election, this is the right time not to enjoy much success.

[Tramballi] What about in a year's time?

[Svili] in the 1996 election the real issue will be the peace process. On this issue we and the Likud Party will have more contrasting stances than ever before. I realize that if a Palestinian bomb explodes two days before the election, we will lose. But it is a risk that we must take.

[Tramballi] With a gerontocracy? Rabin and Peres together total almost 150 years between them.

[Svili] This too is a risk. But I think that in the face of the risks that the peace process presents, people want politicians with a record behind them.

Official Orders Inquiry Into Zo Artzenu Actions

TA2808190195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir has ordered the police to open an inquiry into the right-wing Zo Artzenu movement because of a booklet it published and its subsequent actions. The investigation will be into suspicions of inciting to rebellion, issuing seditious publications, disturbing policemen in their line of duty, and endangering lives on the main roads.

In a letter to the deputy commander of the Criminal Investigations Department, the attorney general says that the instructions to the police up to now have been to avoid investigations into various pronouncements, even if outrageous, out of a desire to uphold the basic right of freedom of expression. However, a study of the actions of Zo Artzenu points to an intention to disturb public order. After conferring with the state prosecutor, the attorney general decided to order an investigation into Zo Artzenu and urged giving the investigation priority due to its public interest.

Statute of Limitations Expires for POW Murders

TA2808181695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir ruled that the statute of limitations applies to the murder of POW's in the 1956 Suez Campaign and the 1967 Six-Day War because over 20 years have since passed. The attorney general ruled that the murder of POW's is a grave act, which should be denounced and punished, but that under the law it is not genocide. Therefore, the law governing punishment for genocide is not applicable in this case.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the attorney general wrote the opinion at the request of the foreign minister following the Israeli reports about and Egyptian reactions to the killings of POW's.

Envoy to Israel Views Contacts, Options on POW's

NC2608101195 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Ashraf al-'Ashri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, has stated that he held important contacts in the past few hours with a number of Israeli officials on the issue of the Egyptian POW's killed during the 1956 and 1967 wars. Basyuni demanded some new clarifications for Egypt and asked that it be kept closely updated on the details of these crimes and the names and identity of their perpetrators.

In a telephone interview with AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I from the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv last night, Basyuni stated that he held a lengthy meeting the day before yesterday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He informed him of the developments in Egypt's current stance and of its interest in learning all the facts related to these crimes. Basyuni met earlier with a number of officials in Yitzhaq Rabin's government to follow up on the same issue and stress the need to provide Egypt with all the information and actual facts on the basis of which Egypt will immediately respond to these Israeli crimes. Egypt is currently studying several options to seek justice and put these murderers on trial.

The Egyptian ambassador stressed that the Israeli authorities had promised to hand Egypt in the coming hours its official reply by means of a report which the Israeli Ministry of Defense is currently preparing. The report will contain all the facts and correct information on these crimes and their perpetrators, in response to the official request submitted to the Israeli authorities by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Based on Israel's reply, we will immediately decide on the next steps to be made regarding these murderers, Basyuni added. We may immediately demand their trial before the International Court of Justice in the Hague or before the Egyptian courts, in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, which calls for proper treatment of prisoners of war. We are also considering the possibility of taking legal measures against a number of former officers and Israeli officials both inside and outside Israel, particularly since some of them now live in some European capitals. We will demand large compensations commensurate with the magnitude of these abominable crimes.

Asked about the Israeli authorities' efforts to track down these murderers, Ambassador Basyuni said that there are official letters from Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to his Cabinet members to hold official inquiries into and uncover these cases, and the Egyptian Embassy has received promises in this regard. In its weekly meeting today, the Israeli Cabinet will discuss all the developments related to this issue and open all the relevant files. Israeli reports speak of putting these murderers on trial and stripping the military ranks of commanders and officials who now hold leading positions in the Israeli military establishment.

Ambassador Basyuni added that a number of Arab Knesset members, such as 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah from the Arab Democratic Party, Hashim Mahamid from the Peace and Equality Front (HADASH), Muhammad Mi'ari, and other leaders from Meretz Party, which holds 20 seats in the Israeli Knesset, submitted urgent interpellations to the Israeli Knesset this week. Rabin's government is expected to face tough stands and dire consequences as a result of these interpellations, he added.

Ambassador Basyuni emphasized that Egypt cares about the lives of its people and that there is an increasing Egyptian interest in following up the facts and details of these cases. Everyday we hurry the Israeli authorities to prepare their official reply regarding these crimes in preparation for intensive action by the Egyptian authorities and agencies concerned, he added.

Basyuni did not rule out the possibility of forming a joint Egyptian-Israeli commission of inquiry to investigate these crimes, their circumstances, and identify the killing and burial grounds of the Egyptian martyrs in the Sinai and al-'Arish areas. All this depends on the results of the report, which Egypt expected to receive in the past hours [as published].

Minister Reportedly Expects Fall of Saddam Soon

JN2808120295 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 28 Aug 95 p 2

[Unattributed analysis]

[FBIS Translated Text] Has the official Jordanian enthusiasm to embrace and support General Husayn Kamil Hasan ended in the same sudden and dramatic manner it had started, or is there a more serious explanation for Amman's recent inclination to give the intriguing political asylum a purely humanitarian dimension?

This is the most important question in the Jordanian political circles. Although sources close to the government tried to confuse matters further by spreading news that Jordan has rejected a U.S. request to completely sever relations with Iraq and participate in schemes to overthrow President Saddam Husayn, opposition circles and some well-informed Western diplomatic sources tell a different story to explain the quick Jordanian shift from embracing the dissident Iraqi officer to eagerness to keep the Amman-Baghdad trade route open.

Centrist parties, which are one way or another considered to be pro-government, say that Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. assistant secretary of state who visited Amman early last week, was shocked at Jordan's objection to the U.S. military parade in the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea, as well as its rejection of Washington's request to participate in toppling the Iraqi regime, or even to sever relations with Baghdad. The same sources also say that Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir advised the U.S. envoy not to wager much on Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan. Moreover, he informed Pelletreau that the results of the recent Amman-Baghdad contacts indicate that President Saddam Husayn is ready to disclose all of Iraq's arms programs and even enter into a peace process with Israel if the United States agrees to a gradual lifting of the sanctions from which the Iraqis are suffering.

Regardless of the validity of this story, opposition sources say it is clear that thanks to popular, party, and parliament reactions to the press statements by Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Jordanian Government was forced to reduce its enthusiasm toward the so-called game of restoring relations with the Gulf at Iraq's expense. Opposition sources believe that popular and party pressures, in collaboration with pressures by businessmen and economists who raised their voices warning against the closure of the Iraqi market to Jordanian goods, and against the possibility of suspending Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan, have, in reality, led to the formation of an undeclared parliament-government lobby to harness the official political and moral support for the Iraqi dissident.

In contrast, well-informed Western sources assert that the change in the Jordanian official stand is no more than a media tactic aimed at absorbing the opposition reaction. However, the essence of the Jordanian position remains unchanged. According to these sources, there are news reports that Gen. Kamil is engaged in intensive political activity in Amman to rally the Iraqi opposition under his leadership, and that the Jordanian capital has over the past few days attracted many Arab and Western intelligence officers concerned with the Iraqi affairs. For instance, a CIA team visited Amman and held secret meetings with Husayn Kamil. Major General Fahd al-Fahd, head of the Kuwaiti State Security, also visited Amman in order to ask Kamil about the fate of prisoners and missing Kuwaitis in Iraq.

According to Western diplomatic sources, statements by Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti at a special meeting for around 100 officials last week serve as a significant indication that the Jordanian support for schemes to topple the Iraqi regime has not changed. During that meeting, al-Kabariti said: Saddam Husayn's regime will collapse within a month or two at the latest. Jordan must abandon the Iraqi train before it crashes. He added that we draw up our policies according to our pragmatic interests, regardless of their ethical substance. We believe that improving our relations with the Gulf states at whatever cost is at the top of our list of priorities at present.

According to Western diplomatic sources, Jordan undoubtedly plays a pivotal role in the developments of the Iraqi crisis. Regardless of whether Jordan is trying to mediate between Baghdad and Washington, or to back attempts to topple the Iraqi regime, its ultimate goal is to help the U.S. Administration incorporate Iraq into the new Middle East order in a manner that would put an end to claims that Jordan's historic role, after the conclusion of a peace agreement, is over. Jordan also seeks to achieve some other goals, most prominent among which is making peace with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

Husayn Kamil: Anti-Ekeus Remarks 'Out of Context'

NC2908123195 Paris AFP in English 1221 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 29 (AFP)—Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan said Tuesday [29 August] that his words against UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus had been aired out of context on Baghdad television as part of a campaign to discredit him.

"I challenge them to air the whole of the meeting because the part that was broadcast has no value unless it is run in context and with all the discussions that took place" in the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), he said.

Hasan also told AFP that only President Saddam Husayn, his father-in-law, was allowed to listen to the tapes of such meetings.

Iraqi state television on Monday aired extracts from an RCC meeting at which Hasan proposed stirring problems with the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq "to prove that (its chief) Rolf Ekeus is not an honest man."

Baghdad has blamed the general for blocking cooperation with UNSCOM, the UN mission seeking to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Last Thursday similar tapes were broadcast, allegedly of Hasan urging Saddam to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Hasan, a former industry minister who defected to Jordan on August 8, said those recordings had been doctored.

Since Hasan's defection with another of Saddam's sons-in-law and their wives, Baghdad has become more cooperative with UNSCOM. Ekeus visited Amman last week to cross check new information with Hasan.

Under the 1991 Gulf War ceasefire resolutions, UNSCOM must verify that Iraq has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction and installed long-term arms monitoring before an embargo can be lifted.

The embargo was imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Party Condemns 'Sudden Development' on Iraq

JN2808145995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 28 Aug 95 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pan-Arab Action Front Party has condemned the sudden development in the Jordanian Government's position on Iraq since the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan on 8 August 1995.

In a statement, the party's secretary general said that the government has committed itself to official interference in Iraq's affairs and has unreservedly adopted a process of change that is close to a coup. He added that this process contradicts any democratic orientation and all laws and considerations pertinent to relations among countries in general and sisterly countries in particular.

He added: The government has pushed toward estrangement with Iraq in compliance with U.S. demands, notwithstanding all statements to the contrary. Moreover, the government has raised issues, such as Iraqi plans to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to provide the U.S. Government with justifications to demand the continuation of the embargo and to make new demands that violate Iraq's sovereignty, security, and existence.

Concluding his statement, the secretary general stressed the importance of the unity of all our people's forces, parties, and unions to defend the national and democratic option and to force the government not to adopt policies that contradict the people's will and interests and jeopardize the existence of Jordan and the interests of its people. He also called for mobilizing the masses to reject any involvement in the U.S. designs and to resist any trend toward interference in the affairs of any Arab country and any support for effecting draconian changes anywhere.

Columnist: 'No Change' in Policy Toward Iraq

JN2608133295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 95 p 6

["Jordanian Perspective" by Dr. Musa al-Kilani: "King's Speech Signals No Change in Jordan's Policy Towards Iraq"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty the King's address to the nation on Wednesday on the recent developments in Iraq and Jordanian-Iraqi relations did not signal any shift in the Kingdom's policy towards its eastern neighbour. It was, in fact, a collective summary of what the King had been saying in public and private since the Gulf crisis. If one puts together what the King said during his trips to the U.S. and in discussions with Arab and foreign leaders since 1990, then we have a major part of the speech. The additional element in the address was the situation after the Aug. 8 defection of Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraq's former minister of Industries and the brains behind the country's weapons programmes.

In basic terms, the King's words reflected the continued Jordanian concern to see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. Regardless of the shift in the regional political map throughout history, human contacts and relations between Jordanians and Iraqis have always remained strong. As such, the suffering of the Iraqi people under the crippling sanctions, imposed when their country invaded Kuwait five years ago, pains us all.

Jordan never made any secret of its consistent effort to ease/relax the sanctions against Iraq so that Iraqi mothers could feed their children and the sick and elderly could be looked after. That was indeed Jordan's first priority and it remains so today. The next priority was to ensure that Iraq, a force to reckon with in political, economic and military terms in the Middle East, is brought back into the mainstream life in the region and given back the strong and effective role it has always played in regional politics.

Regardless of everything, it remains a solid fact on the ground that Iraq is among the giants of the Middle East. The human and material resources of that country could not be matched with any other player in the region. Sidestepping Iraq and working to bring about changes in the region to be compatible with the so-called new world order would never be effective simply because Iraq is very much part of the regional order and of the larger world order.

However, Jordan always put the human element first and politics second. For us in Jordan it was and is unbearable to see our brethren and sisters being denied their basic right, the right to live with their fundamental needs—-foods, medicine, clothing, housing and education—despite the vast resources their country holds.

Very unfortunately, the efforts of Jordan alone could not succeed, particularly that the big powers of the world had their priority and agendas. Posing further obstacles to the Jordanian quest to help the people of Iraq was the obvious cat-and-mouse game that Baghdad and the United Nations played in the context of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

From a detached point of view, it would look as if the international community stood back and watched as the game was being played out, with a very biased party, the United States, assuming the role of referee. Needless to say, the outcome of the game had been predetermined and remains so today.

In such a scenario, Jordan could have hoped to achieve very little effective results in its campaign to end the misery of the people of Iraq. At the same time, what was going on within the borders of Iraq was not conducive to helping the campaign either.

In a nutshell, the King's address reflected the pain of the people of Jordan as they witness the people of Iraq suffer. The pain is intensified when we also see that the country's external policies, by design or coincidence, are contradictory to the very essence of the situation and the need to satisfy international norms and requisites.

Iraqi television broadcast the King's speech in its entirety without comment except that Iraqi viewers were told to draw their conclusion from the Monarch's words. One definite motivation behind the Iraqi decision to broadcast the speech was clear: There could not have been any mistaking of the Jordanian concern and sympathy for the Iraqi people in their hour of suffering.

Editorial Calls For Iraq To Heed King's Warnings

JN2608175895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Shift, When Right"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn's address to the nation Wednesday [23 August] in which he strongly criticised the Iraqi leadership's handling of the crisis in Iraq does not necessarily signify an immediate Jordanian policy shift regarding its eastern neighbour and sister country. As early as the summer of 1992, King Husayn expressed his dismay at the Iraqi leadership's clinging to power in disregard for the plight of its people. In fact most Jordanians had long lost faith in the Iraqi leadership following its failure to save face, and the whole of Iraq, in the early days of the Gulf crisis by withdrawing its troops from Kuwait and afterwards when the Iraqi army was defeated and humiliated despite its leaders' stubborness in standing up to the U.S.-led alliance.

It is true the Jordan's interest lies in trading with Iraq, which, on the other hand, serves as the Kingdom's strategic depth. Moreover, Jordan and the Jordanians love Iraq and the Iraqis as brothers, sisters, neighbours and friends. But Jordan has equal interest with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the rest of the Arab countries. Whether the contention that Iraq contemplated twice in the past eight months a repeat of the 1990 Kuwait debacle or not, we have to admit that there is genuine fear in Riyadh and Kuwait of the intentions of the Iraqi regime.

A similar fear also exists in Israel, which now is in peace with Jordan and which is only separated from the Jewish state by the Jordanian desert and the cities of al-Zarqa, Amman and al-Salt. The same Iraqi regime, as the King has pointed out, used Jordanian airspace to launch rocket attacks on Israel with total disregard to Jordan security.

There is a near consensus in the Arab World and in the West that the U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq will not be totally lifted, unless and until Iraq complied fully with all U.N. resolutions including an account of Kuwaiti prisoners and the introduction of a political system that respects human rights of all Iraqis.

Judging by the record of the Iraqi regime these will take ages to accomplish. Jordan cannot therefore wait for too long to achieve one of its major policy objectives, which is none other than to lift the sanctions and alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. If the King's warning to the Iraqi leadership to change strategy and tactics are not heeded promptly then a real shift in Jordan's policy will become inevitable. It is not right for any regime to survive while its people die.

Air Force on High Alert Following Defections

TA2808124895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Aug 95 p 12

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Royal Jordanian Air Force is at a heightened state of alert due to the recent defections of two Iraqi ministers and because of a joint exercise with U.S. forces, says Jordanian air force chief Maj.-Gen. Muhammad Ababnah in a first-time interview with the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] AIR FORCE MAGAZINE.

"Our state of alertness and readiness is always high and the joint exercise with the U.S. forces raised it even higher. However, we do not suspect Iraq but simply prepare for every contingency," Ababnah told AIR FORCE MAGAZINE editor Merav Halperin, who interviewed him at his Amman headquarters.

Ababnah said Jordan is interested in acquiring U.S.-made F-16 jets. "It is a superior plane and we are optimistic concerning the possibility of acquisition following my visit to the U.S. earlier this month and my meetings with the commander of the U.S. air force and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," he said.

Ababnah, who has headed the Jordanian air force since March, commands an eclectic fleet of jets, including aging U.S.-made F-5Es and F-5A Starfighters, as well as the French-made Mirage F-1.

The force lacks attack helicopters, which it also hopes to purchase from the U.S.

"I foresee good relations between the Israeli and Jordanian air forces," said Ababnah. "We will conduct joint air safety seminars and in the future perhaps conduct joint exercises."

Prime Minister Confers With Egypt's 'Amr Musa

JN2608093395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at his office in the Prime Ministry this morning. The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, and the delegation accompanying the Egyptian minister.

The two sides discussed relations between the two sisterly countries and means of boosting them as well as a number of Arab, regional, international issues of common concern. [passage omitted]

On arrival, Musa said that his visit to Jordan is part of the consultations and contacts between the two countries aimed at discussing issues of concern to all, including Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation, the peace process developments, the Amman economic conference, and regional cooperation in general. He expressed satisfaction with the level of consultation and cooperation between the two countries.

PLO Political Department Head Arrives in Amman

JN2908072495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political Department, emphasized the distinguished Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. He noted that this is a relationship among the members of one people who share common interests and a unified cause. He added that experience has proven that the unity which combined the two peoples is one of the major features of Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He called for bolstering these relations and for cohesion between the peoples of the two countries in order to achieve their unified goals.

Upon his arrival in Amman this evening, he added that he will meet with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti for consultations on developments in the Arab arena, especially since a ministerial meeting of the Arab League will be held within the next few weeks.

Prince Hasan Confers With Israel's Peres

JN2808172595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at noon today. The two sides reviewed the reports of the specialized committees in implementation of the peace treaty signed between the two countries. They also studied the arrangements and measures taken by the Jordanian Government in preparation for the conference on development in north Africa and the Middle East which will be held in Amman at the end of next October.

His highness chaired part of the meeting of the Jordanian and Israeli transportation ministers.

It should be noted that a meeting was held between the transportation ministers of the two countries to settle some outstanding issues in transportation negotiations between the two countries. An agreement was reached on these issues. The two sides also agreed to hold a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Israeli committee on transportation negotiations on Thursday [31 August] to finalize the agreement which will be later forwarded to the Council of ministers.

The meeting was attended by the two countries' foreign and transportation ministers, head of the committee on following up the implementation of the peace treaty, the Jordanian ambassador to Israel, the director general of the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority, and the Israeli ambassador to Jordan.

Airport To Be Built With Israel in al-'Aqabah

TA2808161895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the joint airport to be built at al-'Aqabah, a large passenger terminal will be constructed half in Jordan and half in Israel, it was agreed by Prince Hasan, Foreign Minister Peres, and the ministers of transportation of Jordan and Israel, this afternoon in the 'Arava.

It was also agreed at the meeting that in the first stage, the national carriers will operate five weekly flights between Ben-Gurion Airport and Amman. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the Jordanian request to operate a flight between Ben-Gurion Airport and al-'Aqabah has been rejected for the time being and will be reconsidered in six months.

Medical Cooperation Agreement Signed With Israel

TA2808114695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At noon today, Israel and Jordan signed a cooperation agreement in the health sphere. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that, among other things, the two countries will cooperate in training doctors, exchanging information, and fighting diseases transmitted by animals.

Ministers Peres and Qeysar will confer with their counterparts and with Crown Prince Hasan in Jordan today to discuss, among other things, the establishment of a joint airport for Elat and al-'Aqabah.

More Details of Agreement Given

JN2808170495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In implementation of Article 21 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, a health and medical cooperation agreement was signed between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel. Health Minister 'Arif al-Batayinah signed the agreement for the Jordanian side, while Dr. Efrayim Sne, the Israeli Health Minister, signed the agreement for the Israeli side. [passage omitted]

Following the signing ceremony, Dr. al-Batayinah told reporters: We expect that there will be much cooperation between the two parties in various areas following the signing of the treaty. The signing of this health agreement is stipulated by the peace treaty signed between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel. Medical care, including preventive care and treatment, is sought by the peoples of the region. He said the Jordanian Health Ministry will provide its expertise to any party that asks for it.

Answering a question on the position of the Jordanian Physicians Union on cooperation with the Israeli side, Dr. al-Batayinah said: As you know, Jordan enjoys an atmosphere of democracy and respect for human rights and the freedom of opinion. We do not interfere in such issues.

He noted that unions, societies, and clubs are free to have their own opinions. However, we are officially committed to the peace treaty that was constitutionally endorsed by the legislative and executive powers. He stressed that the Jordanian Physicians Union does not refuse to treat Israeli patients who wish to be treated in Jordan.

For his part, the Israeli health minister stressed the importance of health and medical cooperation between the two countries. He added: Health care is highly important. We should deal with this fact in a manner that would benefit the peoples of the two countries. He said that physicians and scientists on both sides will join hands in fighting diseases that spread in the region.

Iran Reportedly Halts 'Resistance' Financial Aid

NC2908075395 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
28 Aug 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Faithful Resistance officials have long been experiencing distress due to the halting of the monthly $25,000 of financial aid received from Iran.

Hizballah Leader Fadlallah on 'Resistance,' Peace

JN2808160895 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic
30 Aug 95 p 8

[Interview with Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah spiritual leader, by Khaldun al-Gharayibah in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Gharayibah] How do you view the region's future after the peace process has become an established fact?

[Fadlallah] My first remark on the settlement is that it has come at a time when Arabs lost their political weight as a result of the Gulf war which placed the Arab world into a whirlpool of imbalance. This war has fragmented the Arab world. This has paved the way for Arab officials to meet with Zionist officials without even having the chance to meet with each other. At the same time, international pressure, particularly U.S. pressure, forced the Arabs to make concessions to Israel instead of forcing Israel to make even very small concessions to the Arabs. We noticed this at the beginning of the talk about a settlement when the United States exerted pressures to cancel the Arab boycott of Israel. This is as if Arabs should give Israel a down payment to persuade it to talk with them.

The second remark is that the Arab people were not consulted on the issue of peace with Israel. I believe that Arab parliaments, in the states where there are parliaments, do not really represent the Arab people, for an issue, such as peace with Israel, necessitates a popular referendum in which the people express their opinion about this issue which is the mother of issues because it has been continuing for 50 years. I believe that this Israeli entity in the Arab region, although they call it the Middle East, will be rejected by the Arab world.

Therefore, I do not talk about imaginary issues, but about issues which are deep-rooted in the consciences of the people. We know that peoples' causes are not measured by years, but by generations.

[Al-Gharayibah] There is a point in your talk here, you said that Palestine is Islamic...

[Fadlallah, interrupting] Palestine is Arab and Islamic. There is an Islamic majority and a Christian minority which enjoys its rights. There was also a Jewish minority. We have no problem that these religions coexist in one society, providing that only the Jews who were in Palestine stay in it, the Palestinians return to Palestine, and the Jews who came from all over the world return to their countries of origin. Thus, there will be a realistic national solution accepted by the Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

[Al-Gharayibah] Your Imminence, can you hold dialogue with the Jewish currents in Israel, which are hostile to Zionism; namely, the peace groups?

[Fadlallah] First, as a basis we should agree that Palestine is not Jewish. When we agree that Palestine is not Jewish, and that the Jews have no religious and historical right in seizing its land in a way which makes them feel as if the Palestinians occupy their land, and therefore, they should repress and oppress them as they do with any occupation authority—if we agree on this, then we can open dialogue. The Islamists have no reservation on anyone. Say: O people of the Book! Come to common terms as between us and you. [Koranic verses] The people of the Book are the Jews and Christians. Although we have differences with Judaism, we do not differ with the Jews because they are Jews, but because they are unjust. The Holy Koran says: And dispute ye not with the people of the Book, except with means better than mere disputation, unless it be with those of them who inflict wrong and injury. [Koranic verses]

We have been against Saddam's occupation of Kuwait although Saddam is an Arab ruler, and formally he is a Muslim ruler, because oppression has no religion and we are against the oppressor even if he is a Muslim, and we are with the victim of oppression even if he is an atheist. This is the Islamic policy.

We consider the Jews' occupation of Palestine a question of oppression because they expelled a people from their land and brought another people to replace them. We have to look at the picture from both sides. I think that recognizing the legitimacy of fait accompli represented in the Jews' occupation of our land, means that we recognize a new fait accompli that may take place when others occupy our land. In such a case, those who will bow to fait accompli under the slogan of moderation and realistic policy will continue to make concessions until they reach the desert because the fait accompli that is imposed by force may drive you out of your land to another land today, in order to drive you out to a new land tomorrow, and this would continue until you reach the desert.

[Al-Gharayibah] Until when will the armed resistance continue to be the means for liberating the land? Are there means other than armed resistance?

[Fadlallah] We learn from Israel. Israel believes that armed resistance is its means to become the first power in the region and to keep occupied Palestine and other territories. Why does Israel acquire weapons? Why does the United States work for making Israel the first power to enjoy a qualitative military edge in the region? Because Israel is a state that believes that force is what enables it to safeguard its control of the region. The nuclear dispute between Israel and Egypt is the clearest evidence on this. Egypt, Israel's first ally, is not a mere country that reconciled with Israel, but it has changed to be the godfather of reconciliation with Israel as they say, and has changed to be an ally to Israel. If the United States wants to employ pressure on any Arab country and if Israel wants to ease the position of any Arab country, Egypt is ready to act politically to convince this or that Arab ruler or to ease the Palestinian position. Nevertheless, Egypt began to fear the Israeli nuclear weapons. While reconciling with Israel, Egypt began to ask how it can secure its future, and what is the use of the Egyptian Army's weapons in the face of the Israeli nuclear weapons which have become very powerful. Egypt adopted this position which brought to it internal problems that were probably motivated by the U.S. CIA and Israeli intelligence. I cannot say that the assassination attempt against the Egyptian president was an Islamic attempt. In my view, it is very possible that there was U.S. and Israeli participation in that attempt in order to convey a message to the Egyptian president.

We consider armed resistance an aspect of strength for the Arab and Muslim human being, and Israel deals with the Arab world through an intimidation policy.

We do not claim that the Islamic resistance in Palestine and Lebanon would solve the problem of the Israeli occupation, but it can confuse the political and security situation, shake the Israeli pride, and give the nation a feeling of strength when small groups are able to inflict losses on the occupier and to incite some fear within that occupier. This is a great gain, and I think it has no alternative.

[Al-Gharayibah] You have not spoken yet about the other means of resistance.

[Fadlallah] Naturally, the resistance does not reveal all its cards. The resistance is an expression of rejection of occupation and of the status quo. Therefore, I think that when it is denied some of its means, it will devise other means.

[Al-Gharayibah] Does the Lebanon-based Islamic movement consider itself responsible for liberating Lebanese land only or all the lands of the Muslims?

[Fadlallah] Within its means, it is now responsible for liberating the land of Lebanon. It aspires to liberate the land of the Muslims, not only in Palestine but wherever Islam has a cause and wherever Muslims wage a battle. In fact, this aspiration not only includes Muslims, but extends to all the oppressed. The cause of freedom is indivisible. The victory of the oppressed in one place gives strength to the oppressed in other places. We work for Muslims and feel that Muslims should work with the oppressed because both are confronting forces of global arrogance.

We in Lebanon, thanks to our capabilities, are working to liberate Lebanese land. As for the other Islamic land, we cooperate with other people to promote our capabilities, create the appropriate circumstances, and devise other methods to continue in this endeavor.

[Al-Gharayibah] Your relationship with Iran raises many questions. What is your comment?

[Fadlallah] Those who raise this question should first raise the same question about the relationship of Arab officials with the United States. Why is it that the relationship with countries that colonized us politically and militarily — and are still working to colonize us on security, political, and military levels — does not raise the same questions that our relationship with an Islamic nation raises?

I think that we still suffer from the complex of regarding the foreigner as a master to be obeyed and that we should fight our own people who embrace the same religion. We have nothing to do with Iran as a state. Our relationship with Islam in Iran is similar to our relationship with Islam in Sudan and Islam in Jordan and elsewhere. We are Lebanese who seek stability for Lebanon. We also seek to assert Islamic-Christian coexistence in Lebanon and work on the basis of Lebanon's freedom of any pressure that seeks to cancel its will.

In return, we call for Lebanon's openness to Iran according to Lebanon's interests and the Islamic interests in Iran, and for Iran's openness to Lebanon according to its interests that are in harmony with Lebanon's interests and those of Muslims.

[Al-Gharayibah] It is common knowledge that Lebanon and the other Arab parties have joined a peace process. What will happen to you if a peace agreement is signed with Israel? Will this lead to a clash with the authority?

[Fadlallah] We will not sign. We will continue to express our rejection through the means we possess. We do not believe a clash between the Islamists and the state could serve the Islamists or the state. I think that no confrontation will take place because the Islamists have political discretion. When they do anything, they are aware of its consequences and negative and positive aspects. Therefore, when you cannot stop something by force, then you have to study other options to maintain a state of tension in the minds of the people. We do not surrender to the present. We are open to the future. We think in the following way: Enjoy your life as if you will live forever and worship God as if you will die tomorrow.

[Al-Gharayibah] Do we understand from this that the Islamic Movement is so weak that it cannot take the initiative to head the resistance, even after the decline of other currents in the arena?

[Fadlallah] You need to look carefully into the reality of this violence, because jihad is not a show of force where you can flex your muscles, or a sheer emotional state through which you can vent your anger. Jihad is an action movement which must proceed from a plan. The Islamists will consider their options and possibilities at all stages, because they are not the kind of people who act upon the spur of the moment or submit to momentary developments. On the contrary, like Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, they look far into the future. I believe that if circumstances are difficult now, they should be easy to handle in the future.

[Al-Gharayibah] Israel has assassinated al-Tufayli, and kidnapped 'Ubayd and Mustafa al-Dirani. Your reactions in this regard were rather violent. There are reports about secret contacts through Damascus and other places to reach some sort of a deal to release 'Ubayd and Mustafa al-Dirani in return for the body of pilot Ron Arad. How true is this?

[Fadlallah] I do not believe that the problem lies in Israel's demand for the body of a pilot whose plane was shot down. The Islamic movement is prepared to hand over the bodies of Jews in return for its detainees. However, I do not think that Israel is considering such a matter. It is trying to pressure the Islamists and the Lebanese for the sake of the pilot whom it believes to be alive. As far as I know, no one knows anything about him.

[Al-Gharayibah] To what extent are your contacts with the Islamist groups in Jordan, especially the Muslim Brotherhood?.

[Fadlallah] There are general friendships. As for contacts, and whether they are contacts, interaction, or planning, this is a matter on which I do not have much information.

[Al-Gharayibah] What is your position on the Repudiation and Renunciation group in Egypt, and what is your comment on the case of Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd?

[Fadlallah] I have not read anything by Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd so as to be able to judge him. I obtained his books recently and I hope to be able to read them. However, I believe that Egyptian intelligence raised this case to create an atmosphere which would be conducive to distorting the Islamists' image, and to launch a secular or nonsecular campaign against Islamists.

The fatwa [Islamic religious ruling] to separate Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd from his wife was not issued by the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, the Islamic Jihad Movement, or the rector of al-Azhar, but by a an Egyptian court of appeal. This is why Nasr Hamid Abu- Zayd said in a statement to the Lebanese newspaper, AL-SAFIR: The Egyptian regime protects me, but encourages my enemies, because it wants to create a situation where the case will remain alive, evoke many comments, and become linked to the causes of public liberties so that the regime would benefit from the campaign against the Islamists.

Informed Sources Detail Summit Talks With Syria

NC2508210395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1525 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Lebanese political sources have said current developments in Iraq following the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's two sons-in-law to Jordan, the deployment of U.S. forces in the Gulf, and the new significant indications in s King Husayn's speech were the priority topics in nine-hour talks held in Damascus yesterday between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

These sources noted that the new serious military escalation of the situation in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa' in the past few days and the Israeli military maneuvers on the Golan heights were of major interest during the talks. These sources said that both leaders discussed the impact of these local and regional developments on the Syrian and Lebanese stance on peace negotiations, which are facing a visible stalemate after Syria's rejection of the Israeli conditions for resuming the peace process.

The informed Lebanese sources pointed out that during the summit, both leaders also assessed the reasons for the Israeli accusation that Damascus is giving shelter to the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, who, Israel claims, are behind suicide operations in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

These sources noted that President al-Asad and President al-Hirawi are convinced that these alleged accusations are a new Israeli attempt to obstruct the peace talks and block a fair and comprehensive peace in the region. The talks also emphasized both parties' commitment to total coordination between the Syrian and Lebanese stance on the peace process and that both tracks will go in tandem during the future negotiations.

President al-Hirawi met with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today to assess the results of the Lebanese-Syrian summit. In the meantime, political circles in Beirut expressed their deep interest in the results of this summit, which coincided with the serious escalation of the security situation in south Lebanon and the nearing of Lebanese presidential elections. There are increasing speculations about extending President al-Hirawi's term for three more years at the end of his term in November.

Buwayz: Israeli Attacks Adversely Affect Peace

NC2808143795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Expatriate Affairs Minister 'Ali al-Khalil met this afternoon with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. They discussed two major issues: the condition of Lebanese expatriates abroad and the deteriorating situation in south Lebanon.

Buwayz made the following remarks on the situation in the south:

[Begin Buwayz recording] There is nothing new about Israel's actions in the south, which have various motives linked either to the regional peace process or Israeli domestic conditions such as the rivalry between the Israeli Government and its opposition. Israel's escalation of the situation in the south shows its negative attitude toward peace. If these Israeli actions are designed to convince the Lebanese people that the occupation of the south is inevitable, it is an unsuccessful ploy. The human and financial costs that Israel suffers as a result of its occupation of the south far outweigh its benefits. If the Israeli aim is to force Lebanon to accept certain political conditions, the answer is that Lebanon experienced far more difficult times before, especially during its long war. Hence, I believe that the outcome of Israel's actions will be contrary to what it hopes to achieve and will have an adverse effect on the peace climate, that is, if Israel is really interested in achieving peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Visiting Iranian Official Urges Afghan Unity

LD2608120895 Tehran IRNA in English
1150 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 26, IRNA — Leader's representative in Afghan affairs Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Ebrahimi Friday [25 August] in Oruzgan province, in Afghanistan, called for unity among Muslims in order to counter conspiracies of the arrogant powers.

Ebrahimi and his accompanying delegation arrived in northern Oruzgan province Friday and were warmly welcomed by provincial officials and the people of the region. Addressing a massive gathering of people of the province, the Iranian envoy commented on religious and cultural commonalties between the two countries. He further expressed hope that the crisis in Afghanistan would be settled and peace and tranquility return to the republic.

Referring to the recent message of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i forbidding war and fratricide in Afghanistan, Ebrahimi called on Afghan officials as well as jihad leaders to refrain from conflicts and make efforts to settle peace in their homeland.

Rabbani Addresses Cabinet, Discusses Profiteering

LD2708180795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Presided over by Professor Borhanoddin Rabanni, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, a joint session of the cabinet and the High State Council was held at the presidential building this morning. The High State Council's secretariat reported to BAKHTAR that during the joint session, the country's current political and military situation was briefly discussed. Important issues that concern the people, such as keeping the prices at affordable level, the distribution of authority among the security organs, and other issues were then discussed and due decisions were made.

Addressing the joint session, Prof. Rabanni said: As is common in places where security and peace are not completely ensured, profiteers take advantage of this and try to create a situation to suit their activities despite the fact that the people will be suffering. The president added: Now that the opponents have come to believe that they cannot succeed through military means, undoubtedly they are trying to bring about an economic crisis. In such a situation the government must take practical and tangible measures, and bring down prices by applying various methods such as avoising new expenditures, using existing income sources, and balancing income and expenditure.

It was resolved during the session that the cabinet should continue discussing and assessing the issues considered at today's meeting and that the government should take necessary measures to implement them so that the effectiveness of government measures may be felt by the people.

Government Forces Clear 3 Districts of Taleban

LD2508165695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three districts in Helmand Province have been cleared of Taleban group.

A source of the Armed Forces reports to BAKHTAR that the forces of the Islamic Army, in the course of a mopping-up operation this morning, cleared Marja, Nad-e Ali, and Nawa districts in Helmand Province of the Taleban group. In the course of this operation, dozens of men from the so-called Taleban group were killed and 16 others were captured alive by the forces of the Islamic Army.

During this operation, the Islamic Army captured four enemy tanks.

Following the recent advances by the Islamic Army and clearing up of the above districts, it is believed that Gerisk city will soon fall and the Taleban group will be faced with enormous difficulties.

Taleban Reportedly Recaptures 'Strategic' Town

BK2808160695 Hong Kong AFP in English
1453 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Aug 28 (AFP) — Taleban movement fighters in a counter-attack pushed back infantry loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and seized control of a strategic southern town, official sources here said Monday [28 August].

"The Taleban re-captured Girishk Sunday afternoon," Afghan Defence Ministry spokesman, Abdollah said.

Abdollah, who uses only one name, said pro-Rabbani troops had re- grouped at the village of Sangilan on the southern national highway 10 kilometres (six miles) west of Girishk in Helmand province.

"We will hold the Taleban at Sangilan and from there prepare to re-take Girishk," Abdollah said.

After several months of stalemate, pro-Rabbani forces broke the Taleban defence at the Nimroz province district centre of Dilaram last Wednesday and pushed the religious students' militia 120 kilometres (70 miles) back to Girishk.

According to travellers arriving in Kabul from Qandahar, the Taleban captured at least 200 pro-Rabbani troops in the Girishk fighting.

The fighting in Helmand has not yet affected civilian traffic to and from Qandahar.

Analysts said a successful defence of Girishk is vital to the Taleban, because the town guards access to the religious movement's headquarters at Qandahar some 120 kilometres (70 miles) further east.

Pro-Rabbani bombers have attacked Girishk in support of the infantry offensive while the western provincial capital Herat came under air attack last Saturday, sources said.

Defence Ministry officials alleged that Herat was bombed by jets belonging to ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostam whose Uzbek militia staged an abortive coup against Rabbani in January this year.

Fighting also continued around the strategic district centre of Sarowbi, 70 kilometres (40 miles) east of Kabul.

Abdollah claimed that pro-Rabbani troops had captured the Zardad military base late Monday from their Hezb-e Eslami faction rivals, led by former Premier Golboddin Hekmatyar.

The base is named after a well-known Hezb commander Zardad Fariadi.

The Zardad base, which sits on a plateau to the west of Sarowbi, was captured in a pro-Rabbani infantry attack originating to the south on the old Lataband road, an historic route from Kabul to this eastern district centre, he said.

The official spokesman said an anti-aircraft unit was under siege at another important military base, some three kilometers (two miles) north of the Zardad base.

The anti-aircraft base guards Naghlu, one of Sarowbi's two hydro- electric power stations, which until 18 months ago supplied Kabul with power.

Abdollah said it was unclear if a final push to capture the town of Sarowbi would take place Monday evening.

He said Rabbani's military strongman ex-Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, was directing the Sarowbi offensive. Mas'ud has urged caution, advising his troops to prepare their defences before pushing ahead, he said.

The fall of Sarowbi would be a severe blow to Hekmatyar, who has already suffered a series of military setbacks.

Hezb-e Eslami leader Hekmatyar, who was pushed out of Kabul six months ago, is now said to be based in the eastern province of Paktia, on the Pakistan border.

Islamic Army Troops Advance, Capture Rebel Base

LD2808172795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After the capturing of an important base of the Hekmatyar militia in Sarowbi, the heroic forces of the Islamic army are now closing in on the town of Sarowbi. According to a report by our correspondent from Sarowbi, the Islamic army forces have captured a key base, commanded by Zardad, on the heights near the town. Now the Islamic army forces have arrived at the outskirts of the town. According to the report the Islamic army forces are strengthening their positions around the town. The report adds that during this victorious operation several tanks and vehicles and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were seized by the Islamic army's forces. Our correspondent says that the Hekmatyar militia are fleeing from their positions along with their equipment.

Rebel Forces Announce Success in Oruzgan Province

*LD2808180195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto
to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 28 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Coordination Council [HCC] forces have cleared up the districts of [word indistinct] and Charqol in Oruzgan province. A Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] source told Radio Message of Freedom in a radio contact that the operation started on 3 Sonbola [25 August] and the HCC forces cleared the districts of [word indistinct] and Charqol of the coalition administration men. In the course of this operation the 20 of the coalition administration's men were killed and 30 others injured. As many as 50 men were taken prisoner and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was seized.

Bangladesh

Malian President Konare Pays Official Visit

Holds Talks With President

BK2508135595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Visiting Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and held exclusive talks with him at the Bangabhaban [President House] today.

Welcoming the Malian president to Bangladesh, President Abdur Rahman Biswas said his visit will further consolidate the excellent ties between the two countries. He said Bangladesh holds its friendship with Mali in high esteem. This relationship has been established on the basis of mutual trust and understanding and our common faith in Islam. The president said Bangladesh and Mali face similar challenges and there is a similarity in the hopes and aspirations of the two countries to improve the overall standard of living of their peoples. President Biswas thanked the Malian president for naming an important street in Bamako in memory of martyred President Ziaur Rahman. He said this initiative by the Malian authorities is a symbol of friendship and added that this will further strengthen ties between the two countries. The president added that Bangladesh is eager to develop economic and trade ties with Mali. President Biswas expressed satisfaction with the Malian Government's decision to recruit a large number of Bangladesh farmers to work in that country.

President Alpha Oumar Konare thanked the Bangladesh president for the warm reception and hospitality given to him and the members of his delegation. He recalled the initiative taken by martyred President Ziaur Rahman to establish a cooperative relationship with Mali and paid homage to him. The president added that the process of expanding this relationship is still continuing. Mr. Konare said that coordinated efforts should be made by both countries for the welfare of the people of Bangladesh and Mali. He expressed grief over the sudden death of Ambassador Abdul Qayuum and announced that the Malian Government has decided to give him an award in recognition of his sincere efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Bangladesh and Mali.

Madam Konare, the wife of the Malian president; Begum Abdur Rahman Biswas; Information Minister M. Shamsul Islam; Education Minister Barrister Zamiruddin Sirkar; Begum Khaleda Rabbani, MP; and Begum Shamsul Islam were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, visiting Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare and President Abdur Rahman Biswas offered Friday prayers at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque. After Friday prayers, they attended the funeral prayers for Ambassador Abdul Qayuum. Several members of the cabinet and envoys from the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] countries also joined the funeral prayers.

Discusses Ties, 'Disasters' at Banquet

BK2608132595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas and the visiting president of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konare, have called for intensification of economic cooperation for mutual benefit of the two peoples. They were speaking at a state banquet at Bangabhaban last night. The president and Begum Biswas hosted the banquet in honor of the president of Mali and Madam Konare. The two presidents also called for strengthening cooperation among developing countries to face the common challenges of economic development and eradication of poverty experienced by the countries of the South. They referred to their shared recent history of restoration of democracy in their respective countries and the struggle of their people against autocratic regimes.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said Bangladesh and Mali have experienced sufferings from disasters, both natural and manmade. He said Bangladesh is increasingly faced with serious environmental problems such as desertification and severe drought in its northwest part [words indistinct] Ganges water by India at Farakka. He called for an understanding of Bangladesh's justified demand for equitable sharing of the Ganges water, which is becoming increasingly vital for the country's socioeconomic development.

President Biswas said Bangladesh and Mali share common Islamic values and being members of the Organization of [the] Islamic Conference [OIC] have also common concern for the Islamic ummah [community]. In this connection, he strongly pleaded for an emergency summit meeting of the OIC countries to find out a strategy to protect the territorial integrity and independence of Bosnia. The president expressed his happiness that the government of Mali is considering to engage Bangladeshi farmers for agricultural development of its fertile area of (?Nile) basin.

President Konare said both Bangladesh and Mali being Third World democratic countries with similar challenges are needed to strengthen their solidarity. The Mali president stressed an urgent need for a new international economic order to end the growing dependence of the countries of the South on developed world.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, cabinet ministers, the judges of the supreme court, politicians, senior civil and military officials and the elites of the city attended of the banquet. President and Madam Konare witnessed a cultural function at the end of the banquet.

Emphasizes 'Partnership' Between Nations

BK2608142995 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh and Mali have decided to expand the bilateral cooperation, especially in trade and agriculture. The decision was made at government-level talks at International Conference Center in Dhaka this morning. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia led the Bangladeshi side at the talks, while Malian side was led by President Alpha Oumar Konare. The Malian president emphasized the need to intensify the partnership between the two countries in various spheres. He noted that both Mali and Bangladesh are developing countries and their resources are limited. He hoped both the countries will maintain cordiality and cooperate to successfully accomplish their goals. Konare mentioned the experience attained and progress made by Dhaka in agriculture, rural development and educational sectors and urged Bangladesh to cooperate in these fields.

Referring to the bumper production of fruits in Mali, Konare sought Bangladesh's cooperation in setting up conservation plants in his country. He urged Begum Zia to extend cooperation in barter trade. Referring to the bumper production of cotton in Mali, the two leaders discussed the textiles production in their two countries. Konare also sought Bangladesh's cooperation for running the only jute mill in Mali.

During the talks, Begum Zia assured the Malian president of every possible cooperation. Referring to the agricultural sector, Begum Zia said that Bangladesh has vast experience in this field which can be utilized by Mali. She said Mali can take agricultural experts and agro-based manpower from Bangladesh. About trade in jute and cotton, Begum Zia said the two countries can interchange these two items. The prime minister emphasized the need for the speedy implementation of the decisions made at the talks.

Konare expressed his support and solidarity to Begum Zia's call for the Organization of Islamic Conference summit on Bosnia- Herzegovina.

Begum Zia also referred to the adverse effect of the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India at Farakka on Bangladesh. She said one-third of the country is facing massive disaster not only in agricultural sphere but also in fisheries sector. It has also created ecological imbalance in the country. She sought the moral international support for a negotiated solution of the problem.

Referring to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the prime minister said the Serbs should be tried as war crime offenders.

Attends Aggreement Signing Ceremony

BK2708161195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh and Mali have signed two agreements concerning trade and cultural cooperation. The agreements, which will remain valid for five years, stress the need for further expansion of the existing cooperation in these spheres. Commerce and Information Minister M. Shamsul Islam signed the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh, while Mamadou Toure, Malian water development and environment minister [position as heard] signed on behalf of his country. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare were present during the agreement signing ceremony. Earlier, the two leaders held talks for some time and discussed various aspects of speedy implementation of the agreements.

Appreciates 'Experiences' From Visit

BK2808044095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh and Mali will strengthen their trade and economic relations to continuing cooperation in various fields for mutual benefits of the peoples of the two countries. This was expressed when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia made a farewell call on the visiting Malian president, Alpha Oumar Konare, at the state guest house, (Koratua), in Dhaka yesterday evening. Reviewing his state visit to Bangladesh, Mr. Konare said he is returning with a lot of experience in Bangladesh, which would be a great help in the economic development of Mali.

Referring to his visits to a number of places in this country, including gramin [rural] bank project, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, (Manamati) museum, (Agandi) Jute Mills, and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, the Mali president said he is immensely benefited from the programs arranged in connection with his visit to this country.

Appreciating the government's program on poverty alleviation, rural development, women development, and development of education, the Malian president said he can make good use of the experiences he gathered from these programs.

He lauded the efforts of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in consolidating democracy in Bangladesh. Begum Zia said signing of the two agreements on trade and culture will significantly contribute to further strengthening of bilateral relations. Among others, wife of the Malian president, Madame Adame Ba Konare, and Malian Minister for Rural Development and Environment Mamadou

Traore [title as heard], and Information and Commerce Minister M. Shamsul Islam were present on the occasion.

Concludes Visit; Communique Issued

BK2908005295 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh and Mali have called upon the UN Security Council to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable the people of Bosnia to exercise their right to self-defense. This call was made in a joint communique issued in Dhaka and Bamako today at the conclusion of the four-day state visit by Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare to Bangladesh. In the communique, the two countries expressed deep concern over the gradual deterioration of the situation in Bosnia and called upon the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] to intensify its efforts to alleviate the suffering and misery of the people of Bosnia and protect the independence and sovereignty of that country. The communique said that President Konare has welcomed the initiative by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to hold an emergency OIC summit on the Bosnian issue.

The communique adds that during the official talks between the two sides discussions were held on cooperation between the two countries in various international forums, particularly in the OIC and the forum of the least developed countries. It added that the two sides expressed satisfaction over the signing of a trade agreement and a cultural cooperation agreement.

Bangladesh and Mali has reached a consensus that there are wide prospects for the exchange of manpower in the agricultural sector for their mutual benefit. The two countries lauded the proposal to conduct a feasibility study on sending agricultural laborers from Bangladesh to develop the agricultural sector in Mali. They reached an agreement that an expert team from Bangladesh will visit Mali in the near future to carry out a fact-finding mission in this regard.

The joint communique added that the two countries expressed eagerness for an exchange of visits between their leaders, officials, and experts to increase cooperation in the economic, technical, and cultural fields. In this connection, it has been stated that the Malian minister for primary education and health will visit Bangladesh. The two sides also agreed to encourage the exchange of visits between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries. Bangladesh has welcomed a proposal by Mali to send a team of experts to Bangladesh to inspect the jute mills in that country.

President Konare invited President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to visit Mali. The leaders of Bangladesh accepted the invitation. The dates for the visits will be fixed later.

Before returning home, the Malian president has arrived in New Delhi on a visit to India.

The visiting dignitaries were seen off at the airport by M. Shamsul Islam, minister of commerce and information. The Malian president was given a 21-gun salute. Two children presented bouquets to the Malian president and Madame Konare before they boarded the plane. Four jet fighters of the Bangladesh Air Force escorted the plane carrying the special guests to the border.

Earlier, President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas accorded a hearty farewell to the Malian president and Madame Konare at the Bangabhaban [President House]. The Malian president was presented with an honor guard by a smartly turned out contingent of the three services. President Konare, accompanied by President Biswas, accepted the salute and inspected the guard.

Army Contingent Leaves To Join UN Protection Force

BK2508160895 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A contingent comprising 20 officers from the Bangladesh Army left Dhaka for Kuwait yesterday evening at the invitation of the United Nations to join the UN Protection Force in Iraq as observers.

A news release issued by the Inter Service Public Relations in Dhaka today said the contingent comprises 14 Army officers, three naval officers, and three Air Force officers. They will help ensure security in the distribution of humanitarian relief by various international organizations in northern Iraq. At present, 315 Bangladesh military observers are engaged in eight United Nations missions.

Police Open Fire on Protesters; 7 Killed

BK2808061095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0558 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Aug 28 (AFP)—Seven people were killed and more than 100 injured when police opened fire on demonstrators in the northern Bangladesh town of Dinajpur protesting the death in police hands of a 14-year-old girl, it was reported Monday [28 August].

The demonstrators stormed a police barracks after the body of the girl was found by the roadside early Sunday.

Police claim she had been given a lift in one of their trucks and fell to her death but local residents allege police raped and killed her and then dumped the body.

News of her death provoked a furious response among local residents. Armed with sticks and stones, they stormed the local police barracks. Police opened fire and hurled tear gas at demonstrators, killing seven people, the mass circulation daily ITTEFAQ newspaper reported.

Witnesses said another 100 people were injured, many with bullet wounds. Twenty were said to be in serious condition.

Three police outposts and four vehicles were set ablaze and the Dinajpur Press Club and the offices of three daily and one weekly newspaper ransacked, residents said.

Abdur Rahim, a former MP of the main opposition Awami League told AFP by telephone "police have been withdrawn and para-military forces are guarding the streets with automatic weapons and repeatedly warning by loudspeaker that a curfew is in place indefinitely."

He said families of the seven victims had not yet received the bodies for burial.

The girl, identified as Yasmin Akhter, had arrived in the outskirts of the town by bus late Saturday and sought police help. But there are differing versions as to what happened afterwards.

According to police Akhter leaped to her death from the truck, but local residents insist police raped and killed her, and then dumped her body.

A government spokesman in Dhaka said Judge Rafiqul Islam been appointed to investigate the girl's death and to submit a report within 15 days to the home ministry.

Dinajpur administrative chief, Jabbar Faruq, has been summoned to Dhaka to report to Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, an official source said.

"The town is eerily quite now and people are shocked at this police action in Dinajpur," said Nirmala (Eds: one name), a college student, contacted by telephone.

She said she and her family were staying indoors because they feared fresh trouble later Monday from a planned mass protest in defiance of the curfew. Shops, schools and offices were shut, she said. Mass prayers for the dead girl have been called for later in the day.

The Dinajpur Lawyers' Association endorsed the strike calls to protest what it called a "massacre" and the "rape and killing" of the girl.

Dinajpur, with a population of 1.4 million, is home of the Barapukuria coal mine, Bangladesh's largest. The city is 272 kilometers (175 miles) north of Dhaka.

India

'Direct Contact' With Hostage Said Established

BK2808162895 Hong Kong AFP in English
1536 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (AFP) — Indian authorities established their first direct contact with one of the four Westerners held captive by Moslem militants in Kashmir for more than a month, the Press Trust of India said Monday [28 August].

An official told the news agency in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar late Monday that the hostage said all the abducted tourists were "safe."

Informed sources in Srinagar said contact was established over telephone but did not specify which of the hostages had been contacted, or when.

The Al-Faran rebel group, which claimed responsibility for the abductions, had threatened to kill Britons Paul Mangan and Keith Wells, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert if 15 detained Moslem rebels were not freed.

The captors had earlier killed a fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro.

U.S. Hostage Speaks to Authorities

BK2808165495 Hong Kong AFP in English
1635 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 28 (AFP) — Indian authorities on Monday [28 August] established their first direct contact with one of the four Westerners being held by Moslem militants in Kashmir for nearly two months, an official said here.

He told reporters in this state summer capital late Monday that a "government negotiator" had spoken to American Donald Hutchings over the radio. Hutchings was quoted as saying all the hostages were "safe."

The official said the brief wireless contact followed government demands to the Al-Faran rebel group, which claimed responsibility for the kidnappings, to furnish further proof of the hostages' well-being.

"The wireless frequencies were tuned to match the captors," he said. "Donald Hutchings was allowed to speak ... and told the chief negotiator: 'I am safe along with others.'"

He said Hutchings did not answer any queries pertaining to other hostages — Britons Paul Mangan and Keith Wells and German Dirk Hasert — but said he had been provided a list of "intimate and personal" questions for the others.

He said answers to these questions would furnish further proof of the hostages' safety.

The official said contact with the Al-Faran, which killed a fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was "on through intermediaries and on telephone."

Indian authorities believe the Al-Faran is a front for the Harkat-ul-Ansar rebel group — reportedly made up mainly of Afghans — which kidnapped two British trekkers last year.

Informed sources here said the government had offered to release four detained Moslem militants in exchange for the hostages but said the Al-Faran wanted eight rebels, all Afghans, to be freed. The Al-Faran had demanded the release of 15 detained militants.

Moves To Save Hostages, Bhutto Connection Viewed

BK2808044295 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi
25 Aug 95 p 4

[Editorial: "They Had To Be Saved"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Al-Faran has really put Benazir into big trouble. After the kidnapping of the six foreign tourists, Pakistan kept quiet as though it had no connection with these tourists held as hostages. When one of them was murdered, the Pakistani prime minister had to condemn the killing and also appeal to the Al-Faran to release the hostages unconditionally. Still, Benazir maintained her claim that her government had no truck with the Al-Faran and that her appeal was made purely on humanitarian grounds. When Prime Minister and the governor of Jammu and Kashmir blamed Pakistan directly for these kidnappings — from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi and Srinagar respectively — while addressing the nation on Independence Day, Pakistan leveled the counter accusation that these kidnappings were the handiwork of the Indian intelligence services. But Benazir's accusation was not taken seriously by anybody because by this time a rescue operation was being planned in Srinagar under the direct supervision of the representatives and intelligence officers of the three Western countries. It appeared for the first time that the United States, Britain, and Germany were also now convinced that Pakistani official agencies had a hand in these kidnappings. The Al-Faran had threatened to kill the four foreign hostages in the event of its demands being not acceded to and had also set a time limit for this. When that limit expired, all of a sudden, a dramatic event took place. According to the Srinagar correspondent of a British newspaper, Christopher Thomas, the Indian security forces had accidentally intercepted a secret message for the Al-Faran. This message had come from somewhere in Pakistan and ordered the Al-Faran to kill the remaining four hostages. The code to carry out this order would be the airing of a statement on BBC and VOA. It was then that the Clinton administration warned Benazir Bhutto about it.

This warning message from the White House, received quite late in the night by Benazir Bhutto, asked her to exercise her influence over the Al-Faran to get them to change their decision. Benazir was greatly vexed by this secret U.S. message. Although she had so far pretended to have no contact whatsoever with the Al-Faran, clearly the U.S. message showed that the United States didn't believe her claim, mainly because the level at which the Al-Faran was maintaining its contacts with Srinagar and Islamabad made it impossible to believe Pakistan had no knowledge of the whereabouts of the Al-Faran. The head of Pakistan's Committee for Foreign Affairs had come to India with the claim that he had been requested by the representatives of the Al-Faran to mediate in the case. Obviously, he could only have been able to mediate by being in direct contact with the leaders of the Al-Faran. When Benazir received the White House message, she was left with only two alternatives: either to evade the request by claiming her ignorance of the Al-Faran or to accede to the U.S. request and exercise her influence over the Al-Faran to save the lives of the hostages. Had Benazir chosen the first option, the killing of the four hostages would have been a certainty, something which the U.S. President could not have overlooked because he would not have had the guts to face the subsequent hostile public opinion in the United States. So Benazir had to choose the second option. This U.S. pressure on Benazir is self-evident in that the Western countries did not buy her theory that she had no truck with the kidnappers or with the Al-Faran. Although the hostages' lives have been saved for the time being, the onus of securing their unconditional safe release now rests squarely on Benazir. No longer can she masquerade her ignorance of the kidnappers or deny her controlling influence over them.

Official Denies Readiness To Join Nuclear Talks

BK2808163295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1425 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (AFP) — India on Monday [28 August] denied that it was ready to participate in proposed five-nation talks on stemming nuclear proliferation in South Asia as suggested by two US senators.

"There is absolutely no truth or substance in the report," a foreign affairs spokesman said. "It is part of a disinformation campaign.

"India has consistently opposed a regional approach for a solution to the nuclear proliferation issue and is in favour of a global solution on a non-discriminatory basis," he said.

Two Republican senators, Arlen Specter and Hank Brown, had said in Islamabad that India and Pakistan were eager for the regional non-proliferation talks, which would also include China, Russia and the United States.

Specter, who is chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and Brown met with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao here before proceeding to Pakistan.

India opposes the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on the ground that it discriminates between the nuclear haves and have-nots.

Kuwait Asks Rao To Aid Release of POW's in Iraq

BK2508154995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait has sought India's help in securing the release of over 600 prisoners of war and missing persons allegedly held in Iraq. The appeal was made by the chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War, Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, when he called on the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi this morning. The two leaders also discussed the scope for greater economic cooperation between India and Kuwait.

Aircraft Pact Said Signed With PRC, South Korea

BK2708164695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India, China and South Korea have formed a consortium to manufacture what could be the Third World's first 100-seater passenger aircraft. A PTI report quoting official sources in Beijing says the three countries signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect at Shanghai today. The first aircraft from the deal is likely to come out by the turn of the century.

Ammunition for 'Militants' Found; Chinese Markings

BK2908032495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security forces recovered four heavy boxes of ammunition meant for militants from the border area of Arnia, about 32 kilometers from Jammu. Police sources said the boxes were recovered from a paddy field following information from a farmer. The boxes contained 3,000 rounds of live ammunition with Chinese marking.

Kashmir Council Elections Conclude; Protest Noted

BK2908004595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Delhi All India Radio Network in English at 1530 GMT on 28 August carries two reports related to the polling for the Leh Autnomous Hill Development Council in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the first report the radio notes: "In Jammu and Kashmir, polling in the four constituencies of the Leh Autnomous Hill Development Council ended this evening. Polling by and large was peaceful. According to official estimates, 55 to 75 percent polling has been reported. Twenty-two Congress-I candidates have already been declared elected unopposed. The state government will nominate four candidates to the 30-member hill council. Indian Airlines will operate an additional flight between Jammu and Leh tomorrow. According to official sources, this is in view of the cancellation of today's Jammu-leh flight due to bad weather."

In a separate report, the radio adds: "In Jammu and Kashmir, 10 persons, including some leaders of the Hurriyat Conference, were arrested today for violation of prohibitory orders. They were trying to take out a procession in protest against the setting up of the Leh Hill District Development Council. They included Mr. Shabbir Shah, Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone, Mr. Yasin Malik, and Mr. Shakil Bakshi. They were released later. Shops in Srinagar and some other towns of Kashmir valley remained closed. "

Punishment Assured for Guilty in Gandhi Murder

BK2708135595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister coordinating the investigating agencies in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Mr. P. Chidambaram, has reiterated the center's resolve to take the Jain Commission's inquiry to logical conclusions. Replying to a four-hour debate on the status of the Jain Commission and the trial of the accused in the assassination of the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, he told the Lok Sabha that the guilty will not escape the clutches of the law. Expressing the government's resolve to book the guilty at the earliest, Mr. Chidambaram hoped that the trial in the designated court in Madras will be completed by the end of this year.

Commission Criticizes Delhi Economic Policies

BK2908044395 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Aug 95 pp 1, 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, AUG 19 — IN A SEVERE indictment of the Government's economic policies, the Planning Commission pointed out that neither was poverty going down significantly nor were jobs being created at the expected rate.

The Planning Commission in its mid-term appraisal (MTA) of the Eighth Five Year Plan has suggested that in order to tackle poverty and unemployment, the Government must continue with anti-poverty and special rural works programmes.

The MTA document warned against neglecting investment in the vital sector of agriculture which continues to have a predominant share in total employment generation in the country. It also cautioned the Government against a swift and wide opening up of the consumer goods sector to imports as that would have a large-scale and immediately adverse impact on employment generation.

Why such socially useful and productive suggestions of the Planning Commission are being kept away from the arena of public debate is beyond comprehension. But this is precisely what is being done, by designating the MTA document as "Secret" .

As unemployment is likely to continue to be a widespread problem in coming years, the Planning Commission has held that special programmes for providing wage and self-employment need to be continued as instruments of direct intervention for tackling poverty. These programmes, the Commission feels, are mandatory as long as high levels of poverty persist. And persist they do even if the official estimates underplay the extent of poverty.

Under these circumstances, the Planning Commission has strongly favoured supplementing the normal growth process with special employment programmes to tackle poverty. The Commission admits that special employment programmes like the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna [JRY] claim investible resources which could otherwise have contributed to the growth process. However, it argues that benefits accruing from such programmes in raising the income levels of the poor far outweigh the costs in terms of reduction in growth in GDP (gross domestic product) due to the diversion of investible resources.

The MTA notes that it has been estimated that a rural works programme starting with an expenditure of six per cent of GDP (and which declined over time) would slow down the GDP growth rate by only a quarter of a percent per year. At the end of a 20-year period, the per capita GDP in the terminal year would be lower only by 4.6 percent while the incomes of the two poorest classes in the rural areas would have improved by 40 per cent over the 20-year period. The present outlays on JRY and other rural employment programmes, however, are only 0.8 per cent of the GDP. The MTA document concludes that while the benefits of these schemes may be smaller, the costs in terms of the growth sacrificed may also not be large.

However, while justifying expenditure on direct interventions to tackle poverty, the Commission has noted that the need for better targeting and greater efficiency in the implementation of these programmes. It also recommended that given the extent of urban poverty, the anti-poverty schemes in urban areas needed to be expanded substantially.

The MTA document notes that stabilisation policies for containing fiscal and current account deficits are inherently contradictory and tend to depress both output and employment growth. And this is what seems to have happened in the three years following the introduction of the the new economic policy of the Narasimha Rao Government economic and employment growth have been less than satisfactory.

Employment growth in the first three years of the Eighth Plan (1992-95), according to the document, has been lower than the average annual rate of growth envisaged in the Eighth Plan. This has largely been due to the rate of growth of the economy (4.6 per cent) falling short of the average targeted rate of growth of 5.6 percent. Estimates suggest that the total number of unemployed could be around 1.7 crore in the year 1993-94.

The MTA notes that about 1.2 crore jobs a year need to be created this year and the next, if the employment objectives of the Eighth Plan are to be met. This would not only imply that employment would have to respond to economic growth better than it has in the first three years of the Plan (employment elasticity would have to increase from 0.44 to 0.5) but also that the economy grows at an average annual rate of 7.3 per cent during the period, 1995-97.

But even the Commission admits that the most optimistic estimate of economic growth is only about 6.5

per cent per annum. And even this may not materialise implying that unemployment would continue to be rampant.

In terms of sectoral employment policies, the MTA notes that the maximum growth in employment has been in agriculture in relatively backward areas, the unorganised manufacturing sector, the trade and transport sector and the services sector in the 1992-95 period.

The MTA notes that in the long-run, agriculture cannot hold an increasingly large number of workers indefinitely. And that developed country experience shows that the employment and output growth relationship in agriculture weakens over time. However, it points out that the development of agriculture in a large number of Indian States was still at a stage where output growth resulted in a substantial increase in employment.

Yet, the Planning Commission points out, public investment in agriculture has become stagnant or has fallen over the years, even though this sector continues to have a predominant share in total employment. The MTA notes that private investment in agriculture depends particularly on public investment, especially in infrastructure. Therefore, it is all the more important to ensure that public investment in agriculture is not curtailed.

The Commission has recommended an increase in public investment in agriculture, particularly for strengthening irrigation and other rural infrastructure in backward areas. It also suggested the re- orientation of rural employment programmes towards rural infrastructure development. Singling out the consumer goods industries, which account for two-thirds of manufacturing employment, the MTA has pointed out that because of this fact alone the Government should be cautious in opening up this sector to imports suddenly. This process would have to be a gradual one to avoid a large-scale adverse impact on employment.

In the small-scale manufacturing sector, the Commission has recommended that concessional and preferential assistance should be closely relaled to the employment intensity of investment rather than to the capital size as is done at present.

Given the strong relationship between employment and growth in the construction sector, the Commission has recommended reforms in the urban land control system and an appropriate tax incentive structure for channelising individual and household savings into investments in housing.

Commentary Discusses High Growth Rate in Exports

BK2808060395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Commentary by Tapan Das Gupta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A 39-percent growth in India's imports in April-July this year may be a record, but it should not be a cause for concern, for exports have also registered a high growth rate of 29.5 percent during the same period. In fact, at this rate, the current account deficit by the end of 1995-96, which is about $3 billion to $3.5 billion—that is a little over 1 percent of the country's GDP, which will be well according to the government's projection.

As Commerce Minister P. Chidamabaram said, imports consisted mainly of capital goods, raw materials, and components. This augurs well, as it is a sign of the robust growth in the manufacturing sector. So, the higher imports are also expected to bring in higher customs revenue. It will help the government to keep the fiscal deficit within a reasonable limit in an election year, when expenditures tend to overshoot the budgetary estimates. The more welcome feature is, however, the high growth rate in exports.

If this trend is maintained during the remaining eight months of the current financial year, the export growth rate may turn out to be well over 24 percent in dollar terms. It also indicates that the policy of liberalization has begun to pay off by making Indian goods competitive in the international market.

A noteworthy feature is that the high export growth rate has been achieved despite the fact that the exchange value of the rupees in real terms has appreciated during the last two years. This probably implies that the productivity in the export sector has improved. Distributing export awards in Bombay yesterday, Mr. Chidambaram announced the government's intention to launch the made-in-India label to create an international image for Indian products.

Of course, the government's efforts alone will not be enough. The government has to be fully backed by the industry, which must improve the quality and packaging of Indian products and keep to the delivery schedules. A welcome sign is that both the government and the industry seem to be moving together in this direction.

The Commerce Ministry has already identified 15 products on which export efforts will be concentrated and identified 15 countries with emerging markets for Indian products. The 15 products include gems and jewelry, cotton yarn fabrics and made-ups, marine products, transport equipment, machinery, leather goods, plastics, iron ore, rice other than Basmati, and other agro- chemicals. The countries which have been identified are: the United States, Japan, Germany, Belgium, UAE [United Arab Emirates], Saudi Arabia, UK, Singapore, Russia, Italy, Australia, Bangladesh, France, the Netherlands, and the Korean Republic.

The objective is to generate enough export earnings to meet the country's import needs for sustaining industrial and agricultural growth. For a country of India's size, it is futile to attempt export-led growth. India is only aiming at export adequacy.

Iran

Nuclear Energy Official Denies Deal With Russia

LD2908112295 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 29, IRNA — No secret deal has been concluded between Iran and Russia, said Vice-President and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO), Reza Amrollahi here Tuesday [29 August].

His remarks followed allegations made three days ago by the British 'SUNDAY TELEGRAPH' on conclusion of a confidential nuclear deal between Iran and Russia.

Speaking to IRNA, Amrollahi said the allegations by the London-based newspaper on a secret contract for manufacture of two nuclear reactors in 'Neka', in northern Iran, are "baseless and mere lie".

The IAEO head said the writer of the article did not even know that the manufacture of two 400 megawatt reactors cannot take place secretly.

Amrollahi stated that the British officials expert in the field had better not authorize their newspapers to discredit them by publishing "such big lies."

Military Exercise Under Way in Kaseh Kabud Region

LD2808115795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program

[FBIS Translated Text] The Beyt-ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem] operational maneuver began today in the Kaseh Kabud region of Gilan-e Gharb in Kermanshah Province. Our correspondent reports from the operational area:

[Central News Unit correspondent in Gilan-e Gharb] On the occasion of the fifth day of Government Week, the Beyt-ol-Moqaddas operational maneuver began with the slogan 'Oh Fatimah Zahra, peace be upon her' in the general area of Kaseh Kabud of Gilan-e Gharb. The commander of the maneuver said that the purpose of this operational exercise is to strengthen the combat readiness of security units in accordance with the commands of the eminent leader and commander in chief, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and to display the combat capabilities in the face of possible conspiracies by the enemies of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: Infantry, armored and air units, as well as Shin-Mim-Re [chemical-biological-radiological] defense units, of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army ground force will be taking part in the maneuver which will be carried out in five stages with (?delay and defense) operations and assaults on the positions and fortifications and breaking through the attack of the hypothetical enemy — with full coordination and unity — in order to achieve the pre- determined aims.

He added: A number of helicopters and aircraft will also be used in this military maneuver to bomb the hypothetical enemy's axes and fortifications.

A gathering of commanders, officials and personnel from the western operational area watched the first stage of the Beyt-ol-Moqaddas operational maneuver, which has been carried out with complete success.

Central News Unit's correspondent, Gilan-e Gharb. [end correspondent]

The operational maneuver will continue until 8 Shahrivar [30 August].

Rafsanjani Praises Intelligence Ministry Personnel

LD2808174095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with a number of Intelligence Ministry officials and experts today President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the intelligence personnel for playing an invaluable part in maintaining the country's security. He stressed: Through comprehensive analysis of internal and foreign events and by accurately identifying Iran's real friends and enemies the Intelligence Ministry should provide the people and the officials with full and comprehensive information.

The president said safeguarding Islam and the overall interests of the Islamic revolution was a fundamental and principle basis for decision-taking. Emphasizing the political, economic, technical, and defensive capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran he said: Because of its strategic geographical position, its natural reserves and human resources, and most of all for reviving Islam and taking great steps in progress and advancement, Iran is very powerful and capable today.

He said: Although the bother caused by enemies is very serious for Iran, it is not easy for them [the enemies]. Because of the intelligence and the understanding of the country's facilities and capabilities that we possess, at present Iran cannot be blockaded and they cannot corner it or put pressure on it, for we provide most of our basic needs at home.

Before the president's speech, Deputy Intelligence Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Pur-Mohammadi briefed the president on the activities and performance of the country's intelligence personnel in the maintenance and defense of the country's independence.

Syrian Ambassador on 'Worrying' U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD2808205695 Tehran IRNA in English
2048 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA — Syrian ambassador to Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan said Monday [28 August] that the presence of the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf was "very worrying". In his meeting with Iranian minister of the interior, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, he said the Syrian government advocates political stability of the region and non-interference of the foreign powers in the Persian Gulf. He also said that current developments in Iraq was reason for anxiety.

Besharati said Iran kept a watchful eye on the developments in the region. He said Tehran welcomed broadening of relations with Syria.

Pakistani Chief of Army Staff Arrives in Tehran

LD2808113895 Tehran IRNA in English
1035 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 28, IRNA — Chief of the army staff of Pakistan Abdul Wahid Kakker arrived here Monday [28 August] on a one-day visit to discuss Bosnian developments with Iranian officials.

Kakker was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Brigadier General Mohsen Rezaie. He is to hold talks with the Iranian military officials to assist the helpless people of Bosnia and find a solution to the Bosnian plight.

Speaking upon arrival, Kakker told IRNA that the Islamic states should find an essential solution to Bosnian problem now that European countries have come to the conclusion that they should withdraw their forces from Bosnia.

The Pakistani official said that some 3,000 Pakistani militarymen coordinated by the United Nations, were engaged in assisting Bosnian refugees since last year.

Kakker is to leave Tehran tomorrow for Ankara, Turkey, from where he will leave for Bosnia to visit Pakistani forces in that war-torn country.

Reza'i Meets With Pakistani Commander

LD2808181195 Tehran IRNA in English
1755 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohsen Reza'i said after his talks with visiting Army Commander of Pakistan General Abdul-Wahid Kakker that Tehran was an important center for military consultations for the defenseless Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said world governments were eager to learn the feelings and positions of Iran in relation to Bosnia-Herzegovina and that he was pleased to see positive reaction by armies of Muslim countries with Iran having an important role in this mobilization.

The IRGC chief who earlier this month conferred with Malaysian army chief concerning the Bosnian crisis, said a Muslim force would be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina to restore peace according to the decision of army commanders of some Muslim states who met in Malaysia.

The 8-member contact group of the organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia includes Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Maghreb, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Senegal.

After his talks Reza'i quoted General Kakker as saying that Washington was trying hard to weaken relations between the two neighbouring countries of Iran and Pakistan. Reza'i said that the Pakistani commander had also discussed other issues with him such as the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Kakker is in Iran on the threshold of his visit to Sarajevo.

Indian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives in Tehran

LD2808104295 Tehran IRNA in English
1025 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 28, IRNA — The Indian External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider heading an economic delegation arrived here Monday [28 August] and was welcomed by Deputy Foreign Ministry for Pacific-Asia Affairs Ala'eddin Borujerdi.

Upon his arrival at Mehrabad airport, Haider stated that his trip was aimed at discussing promotion of Tehran-New Delhi ties and current regional developments with Iranian officials.

Meanwhile, Borujerdi told reporters that the two sides will review the agreements reached between the two countries during the visit to New Delhi of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in April 1995.

Indian heads of various committees of the Iran-India joint commission including industrial, agricultural, transport, trade, research and oil and gas committees are accompanying Haider in his trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Borujerdi said.

Reviewing the activities of the joint committee of Iran, India and Turkmenistan on the use of Iran's transit routes to central Asian republics will be among major topics to be discussed by officials of the two countries, Borujerdi noted.

Velayati Holds Talks With Indian Minister

LD2808182095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon, Salman Haidar, the Indian deputy foreign minister [state secretary for foreign affairs], referred to the trips by the heads of the two states and described his talks as very positive. He called for the realization of mutual goals and the implementation of joint agreements. He stressed the need for cooperation at the regional, Asian, and international levels.

At the meeting Foreign Minister Velayati described as positive the outcome of the talks held and the agreements reached between the two countries. He declared the preparedness of our country's Foreign Ministry for cooperation in other sectors.

Borujerdi, Haidar Discuss Joint Projects

LD2808203795 Tehran IRNA in English 2016 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA — Iran and India have stressed on the need to start their joint projects as soon as possible. Among those projects are one for conduiting Iranian natural gas to India, a fertilizer production plant to be undertaken at Iran's Qeshm Island free trade zone and an electric signals project in Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni.

India's secretary of external affairs, Salman Haidar, and Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, in their meeting here Monday reviewed mutual cooperation in the joint commissions of the two countries on industries and agriculture, telecommunications, trade, oil, gas as well as their cultural and consular relations.

The Indian official who is in Tehran to follow up agreements arrived between Iran and India during a visit to Delhi by Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani earlier this year, expressed hope that the two countries would further broaden their relations in all spheres.

Borujerdi also observed that Iran was interested to see all regional problems having been thoroughly solved.

Ministry Spokesman Rejects UN Human Rights Charges

LD2708192095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for our country's foreign ministry Mahmud Mohammadi has rejected the recent allegations by a subcommittee of the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He termed the contents of the resolution as being contrary to human rights and indicative of the fact that this commission has distanced itself from the framework of its task and its ratified goals.

In an interview with our reporter Mohammadi, referring to UN subcommittee's 47th Resolution on the Treatment of Minorities, stressed that the minorities in Iran enjoy the spiritual support of Islam and the civil rights of the Islamic Republic. He said: The contents of this resolution, instead of admitting that the minorities are in an excellent and positive situation in Iran, repeat the same old allegations and unfounded claims which, in the past, were raised by such discredited sources as the terrorist grouplets.

Mohammadi, referring to the ruthless violations of the most basic legal and human rights of the religious and ethnic minorities in various regions of the world, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said: At a time when the leaders and representatives of the ethnic and religious minorities in Iran and unbiased international observers have confirmed that these minorities are enjoying the most comfortable of lifestyles and are participating in the country's sociopolitical affairs, the UNHRC subcommittee raises some repeated allegations and unfounded accusations.

UN Report Seen Seeking Political Goals

LD2808144495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Human Right subcommittee affiliated to the UNO [United Nations Organization] recently released a statement, once again, claiming that human rights have been violated in Iran. Part of the statement expresses concern over violation of the rights of religious minorities in Iran.

In response to these charges, Iran's Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Dr. Mahmud Mohammadi, on August 27th, talked to IRNA, refuting the allegations made by the UN Human Right sub-committee, calling the international bodies' act as running counter to human rights.

Undoubtedly such resolutions seek political goals, rather than finding a truth or restoring human rights. If those approving the resolution really want to find the truth and reflect the facts about the condition of minorities in Iran, the best source of information and judgment about the subject are the leaders of minorities in Iran and European countries. According to official figures, nearly 450,000 religious minorities live in Iran, and the largest minorities population are Armenians with around a 200,000 population.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, religious minorities enjoy many political, social, and cultural rights. These rights have been granted by providing five seats to the minorities in the Majlis or Islamic Consultative Assembly.

The religious minorities in Iran are free to perform religious rituals, practices, and cultural activities such as publication of books and newspapers, and setting up their cultural and sports centers. Enjoying such rights in comparison to the situation of Muslims in European societies, such as France, where Muslims have not a single representative in parliament of that country, clearly shows the situation of minorities in Iran.

It would not be out of place to hear this difference from the remarks of Bishop Vest Kan Kalbakian, member of the central committee of Europe's Council of Churches, who said sometime ago: Iran is the only country where Armenians have preserved their languge and nationality. And this indicates that Christians in Iran live an honoroble life and enjoy full freedom. This is a fact that the societies, claiming to be up holders of the human rights, have always escaped, and the recent resolution is another evidence to this claim.

Velayati on Foreign Ministry Achievements Last Year

LD2808133295 Tehran IRNA in English
1235 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 28, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati outlined performance of the Foreign Ministry in the past year in an interview published by the Persian language morning daily IRAN, on the occasion of the government week (August 24-30).

The daily quoted Velayati in its Monday's issue as saying that formulation and implementation of a unified, comprehensive and dynamic foreign policy in a politically turbulent world and resistance to increasing pressures of the United States and Zionists to isolate Iran was the most important achievement of the ministry last year.

Velayati said that a harmony in decision-making and enforcement of foreign policies in compliance with the guidelines of the leader of the Islamic Revolution ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i were major features of Iran's diplomacy last year.

The minister added that maintaining friendly relations with European and Western countries, excluding the United States, based on mutual respect as well as strengthening bilateral cooperation with neighboring countries particularly Iran's northern neighbors, African and Asian states were other examples of Iran's successful foreign policy.

He told the paper that active presence in international circles to defend Iranian rights and those of the Muslim world, definition of Tehran's stands and Islamic values as well as playing mediation role in restoring peace and security in the region and in the troubled spots of the world such as Afghanistan, Karabakh, Tajikistan, Bosnia and Persian Gulf were other instances of success gained by the Foreign Ministry in the said period.

He said the most significant part of the government's performance during the first five year development plan were implementation and completion of infrastructural projects, pushing the country's economic, cultural and industrial structures towards self-reliance and consolidating the economic foundations of the country to maintain its independence and bring about social justice.

Unemployment, Government Responsibilities Viewed

95LA0343A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18, 20, 22 Jul 95

[18 Jul, p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The unemployed in the world make up a population of 120 million. Our country, as well, is not safe from the increasing wave of unemployment throughout the world, but what makes the problem of unemployment more tangible in Iran these days is the implementation of a policy called economic modification. The implementation of the economic modification policy has changed the monotonous trend of work and unemployment. The implementors and supporters of this economic policy also have certain things to point out in defense of this policy, among them the large size of the organizations, the inefficiency of the government sector,**

and the low level of output. Aside from the statements and opinions regarding the current economic policy, solutions must be found for the consequences of this policy, including unemployment. The government has been making decisions regarding suitable jobs for the unemployed. At the present, the unemployed have their eyes on the actions of nine ministers in charge of creating employment.

Early this month, the Cabinet examined a report prepared by the Plan and Budget Organization concerning unemployment. Several suggested policies were examined with regard to increasing employment and putting the unemployed to work. In the Cabinet meeting, considering the rate of unemployment and its future, the decision was made to create and seek suitable grounds to absorb the unemployed. In the proposals the government has made, the creation of grounds for productive work is given priority. In the opinion of experts, the policy of nonproductive jobs at any price is an unpleasant experience that must not be repeated. Hence, for those who lose their nonproductive jobs as a result of the implementation of the modification policy, grounds for productive work must be sought. The government proposals that have been made, of which the nine ministers are to follow up, are as follows:

—offering more extensive funds to purchase and build mass or individual housing;
—offering more extensive funds to absorb more investment in the raising of marine life and fisheries;
—development of handicraft industries and providing financial security for such activities at an extensive level through the use of banking funds.

Ministry of Labor and the Employment Plan

As the main ministry in charge of creating jobs, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs some time ago announced its programs with regard to creating productive employment within the Second Five-Year Plan. In the plan of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the role of efficiency training has been greatly emphasized. Studies show that if those persons who have lost their jobs as a result of the modification policy have the specialization and skill for re-employment, they will not face much of a problem. People without skills or specialization face complicated obstacles in finding new jobs, especially in the private sector. On this basis, the national employment planners have emphasized extensive technical and vocational training. Hoseyn Kamali, the minister of labor and social affairs of our country, some time ago explained his views about the necessity of technical and vocational training as follows: "For a variety of reasons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not in a desirable situation in this regard, and technical and vocational training plays an insignificant share in education, such that some experts and national officials believe part of the present unemployment is the result of lack of specialization and skill on the part of the labor force. In other words, usually, the specialized and skilled workers in various fields do not remain jobless. Rather, those applicants who are on the waiting list for years are the ones who lack specialization and skills or whose training is not suitable for the job market, even though they might have an education up to a high school diploma or higher. Hence, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is determined to untiringly carry out technical and vocational training by using all the resources of the government and private sectors to the best of its ability."

The minister of labor and social affairs enumerated the measures taken in the area of expanding technical and vocational training by this ministry as follows:

—creation of a data bank on the national job market and understanding the needs of the market with regard to adjusting technical and vocational training to it;
—construction of 12 job training centers;
—preparing for the construction operations of 70 technical training centers on the basis of Note 43 of the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] budget law;
—start of construction of 32 technical training centers on the basis of Note 37 of the 1372 budget law;
—creation of small schools for carpet weaving, sewing, and delicate work in the population centers of the country;
—increased facilitation to encourage the private sector in establishing free technical and vocational schools;
—providing the resources for job training and technical and vocational training by production units of organizations and the private sector by making use of the resources of the units;
—providing resources to raise the skills of Iranian workers abroad;
—creation of a labor teacher training and engineering college within the framework of the Labor Training and Research Higher Education Complex;
—expansion of technical and vocational training centers next to factories;
—expansion of testing programs to determine the technical and vocational training of those employed in workshops;
—expansion of special technical and vocational training for women in the country;
—creation of technical and vocational training centers in barracks to train soldiers engaged in service;

—cooperation to expand technical and vocational training in national prisons;
—identifying the needs of the job market for various skills and the full effort of the government and its affiliated organizations to adjust the situation of educational establishments to meet the needs of the country through regional projects and discussing the problems fully in the Cabinet and related committees, and also coordination with the related ministries.

Some time ago, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced its programs on employment and expansion of productive activities in the course of the Second-Year Plan. Those who have now lost their jobs as a result of the current policies hope that this plan will materialize and solve their problem. In the first half of 1372, the minister of labor and social affairs announced the following on employment in this plan:

—protecting job opportunities;
—strengthening more than ever before the interest-free loan fund to support job opportunities to facilitate the implementation of job-generating projects and for implementors who lack the necessary resources;
—providing special job opportunities for self-sacrificers and the disabled;
—using the cooperation of guild organizations and expanding related jobs;
—more control than ever before over the entry of foreign manpower who take job opportunities;
—returning foreign manpower employed in the Islamic Republic of Iran who do not have employment permits to their countries, with the cooperation of the related organizations;
—support for the creation of job opportunities through attention and training in suitable job areas;
—development and protection of small industries, domestic industries, jobs, and technical services and development of handicraft industries, with priority given to rural regions;
—efforts to provide productive jobs for the surplus labor force of tribes in rural regions and the creation of suitable grounds for the establishment of non-agricultural activities in the rural environment, in order to increase the per capita income of villagers and create job opportunities for them;
—creation of basic jobs for those without advanced technical training.

The essential question is, which one of the goals referred to have been achieved well? An examination of the job market and employment indicates the insufficiency of the efforts. The programs before us must be revised, and as far as future actions are concerned, more care must be taken.

[20 Jul, p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Extensive organizations must be downsized. Such organizations are less efficient and more costly. This is the main view of those who follow the modification policy's organizational structure. Undoubtedly, masses of employees in many instances not only do not increase efficiency, but slow down the process of movement and the dynamism of the organizations. Here one basic question is raised: Will reducing the financial burden resulting from the decrease in the number of employees result in all cases in an increase in the efficiency of the organization? There is one logical answer to this question. If there is lack of essential planning, decreasing the number of employees will only be reflected in the expenditures of the organization and efficiency will not increase.**

Various organizations of the country have been created with their particular characteristics to manage some part of the affairs of the country. The expenditures that are made to operate such organizations must have an appropriate return. An examination and comparison of the level of operation of some organizations, especially the government organizations with the benefits they have for the society, indicate some excessive and redundant activities. Essentially, some organizations do not have much work in their program in order to assign their employees on those jobs. In many cases, the daily and normal activities are also implemented in the channels of bureaucratic system in a stretched and bothersome manner. The existence of such organizations strengthened the idea of creating change in the organizational structure within the framework of the modification policy, but experts believe that it will not be very easy to carry out this task. All aspects of the task and the social, economic, and even emotional situation of the families of the employees of the organization must be intelligently taken into consideration.

The Oil Economy and the Structure of Employment

The extensive organizations, the new administrative system of the country, and generally the employment structure in our country, have been formed on the basis of an oil-based economy. Until prior to the significant increase of the price of oil and the subsequent foundation of the new administrative organizations, small economic and executive units, particularly agricultural systems, were the major form of the organizational structure of the country. The new organizations were formed on the course of petro-dollars, the agricultural economy changed, and the employees in this sector found new job opportunities in the new form of economy. In shaping the new organizations, the level of expenditures, particularly the cost of the employees compared with the services, that the organization offered the society was not very important. What was more noted was the change in the structure of the economy of the society, and in this case, the huge oil revenues had provided good resources.

Such organizations formed within the framework of an oil-based economic structure cannot be expected to be dynamic and efficient. The goal of such organizations, more than production, is to create job opportunities, and their survival only depends on the export of oil. In such a system, the implementation of certain plans, including the policy of replacing imports, which appears somewhat like production, will not also provide solutions because essentially the organizations lack a production direction and dynamism.

In addition to the modification policy with the goal of reducing the size of the organizations, the developments in the last few years of the previous decade have made clear the need to change the organizational structure, especially for raw materials, including oil-producing countries. Even if we do not believe much in the issue of oil replacement fuels, we still cannot imagine a bright future for an economy based on oil. The fluctuations of the world oil market and the ups and downs of its price, generally a decline, reveal the fact that in today's feverish and swinging world, we cannot implement our plans on the bed of oil revenues. The developments over the past decade showed that not only will the course of oil revenues suffer a decrease, but in some cases it might also continue and last. Under such circumstances, the organizations are faced in practice with conditions in which they will no longer be able to pay for futile employment of their employees. This is the end of the oil story, but the fact is that we have not reached such an end yet. Even though we must not be negligent regarding the future, we still have buyers for the oil produced in our country. The course of investments in some of the vital industries of the country has reached the production and operation stage. Even if the oil revenues have made the organizational structure of the country inefficient, from the same oil revenues, today, Iran has a mass of specialized and experienced forces. In a word, the situation is not bad enough to change the administrative and employment system and structure of the country suddenly. We must act calmly and with compassion.

Unemployment, We Must Not Be Hasty

People are accustomed to seeing fewer human issues in economic writing. Only after going through statistics and economic analyses is reference made to human issues, perhaps in the form of clichs, considering the social consequences of the issue. But this fact must not be ignored, that the consequences of the problem of unemployment contain a world of emotional issues. The emotional consequences of unemployment are not restricted merely to the unemployed person. The tears of the children of the unemployed must somehow be answered. Not all those who become unemployed have difficulties finding a job again, and in some cases individuals are happy that they have been released from a weak organization that lacks management and is not dynamic, but the situation is not the same for all those who are likely to lose their jobs. Even though without God's will, no leaf will fall from a tree, if it crosses someone's mind that he might lose his job and become hungry and destitute, this is in some way a denial of God's attribute as a provider. Economic experts, looking at social issues, say: We must see which people become jobless as a result of the implementation of the policy of change in the organizational structure. Essentially, the rich in the society who have the greatest share of the oil revenues do not have any relationship with the organizational systems of the country in terms of employment. They only benefit from the services of such organizations. The banking system in the country is in the service of the futile circulation of their money. They benefit in the best possible manner from the educational system because the best teachers who have studied at the expense of the general budget of the country serve their children in nonprofit schools, and on the whole their dealings with the administrative organizations is from top to bottom. Hence, the implementation of the modification policy or any other policy will have no worrisome effect on their lives. In the language of statistics, the 3 percent of citizens who have more than 70 percent of 6 trillion rials [R] in cash flow at their disposal are totally exempt from the process of modification and unemployment. On the other hand, those who are subject to the unemployment plan are those who have no other source of income but the government organization, and in all fairness, they are those who have suffered in the war and been showered by missiles.

Economic experts say: How can an individual who lacks any sort of specialization to be absorbed in the highly competitive job market of the private sector be unemployed and abandoned among the crushing financial problems? Hence, regarding the modification of manpower, we must act calmly and wisely. Mandatory actions, in addition to creating critical problems for the people who have become unemployed, will also cause the remaining employees to despair. In some organizations, while dismissing some of the employees is mentioned as a tool to increase efficiency for the organization, unfortunately, we see that other actions are not compatible with such statements. Often, employees who are competent are set aside and dismissed.

Experts emphasize that hasty implementation of the manpower modification policy will ignore many of the factors that increase the efficiency of the organizations. Among these factors, one can point to the training of employees. Moreover, regarding increased efficiency, the development of manpower is considered an essential factor. A wise manager must see whether in his organization the large size of the organization and number of employees have affected inefficiency or discrimination, inequalities, and failure to value the capabilities and knowledge of the employees.

[22 Jul, p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Making the labor force unemployed on the basis of the modification policy may be the last solution. Prior to taking such action, other essential ways must be sought. Conditions must be provided on the basis of which in the value system of the citizens, work and constructiveness have a high status. Carrying out this important matter is not possible through the modification policy, but by changing the economy based on the futile circulation of goods and money.**

The problem of unemployment is not exclusive to our country. Today, the crisis of unemployment is a global problem, but experts believe that there is no single solution to solving this global problem. Hence, regarding the change in the employment structure and the issue of manpower, we cannot base our actions on imported programs and instructions. Experts believe that in every part of the world, a plan to provide and develop manpower must be devised and implemented with consideration for the special conditions of that region.

A Look at the Global Crisis of Employment

The problem of employment and unemployment is not unique to our country. Today, as in almost all countries in the world, the problem of unemployment is felt to one degree or another.

The workers affairs advisor to the president and the general secretary of the Workers House says in this regard:

"This year, the agenda of the 82d Meeting of the International Labor Organization concerned ways to increase employment and fighting unemployment. This shows that the problem of unemployment is not only noted by our media and government; in this connection, nine ministers have been assigned to examine this issue. Rather, it is a global issue, and the whole world has problems in this area.

"The crisis of unemployment is the result of several factors. The first problem concerning the unemployment crisis is the issue of the world population. The speed of the growth of the world population has never been as fast in the course of human history. The second problem is the issue of fighting diseases and the rise in the quality of health and subsequently the decline in deaths, which has resulted in an abundant force ready to work. The third is the mechanization of jobs. The next problem is the polarization of wealth in special channels and subsequently the accumulation of employment centers in the same centers of power and health, which have resulted in the spread of unemployment in other parts of the world.

"The next factor in the appearance of unemployment is the present political crisis and the disintegration of the existing holes. This issue has caused the unemployment of some sections of the world population. Another factor in the appearance of unemployment is the problem of the shortage of investments in the employment sector and lack of attention to the use of manpower in place of machines and automation."

Unemployment in Iran and the Solution

Employment experts regard the effective factors in the appearance of the problem of unemployment throughout the world in the creation of unemployment in our country, but they say, considering the characteristics of our country, we must find solutions to this problem.

Regarding the problem of unemployment and the factors that create it in our country, an expert says:

"In our country, too, the problem of unemployment has several factors, some of which are closely related to the factors that have created the global unemployment crisis. The most important problem is the increase in the population of the country. The increase in population has caused an increase in the demand for employment. The next factor is the spread of the inclination for education, especially higher education, and the inclination toward finding jobs with higher income suitable to the social status of every individual.

In recent years, imports have also resulted in the rise in unemployment because the International Labor Organization has announced in one of its statistical sources that for each $1 billion in imports, 100,000 job opportunities are eliminated. The next factor is lack of attention to the employment issues in newer planning, especially in developmental plans. Another effective factor in the creation of the problem of unemployment is lack of attention to the major characteristics of the Iranian economy. Production in the Iranian economy is production that relies on manpower instead of using machines. Studies show that in Iran, production that is feasible is production that relies on manpower, whereas in recent years instead of manpower, more emphasis has been placed on the machine. This has disrupted the balance of employment. The inclination toward industrial employment and easier service jobs is also an important reason for the rise in the demand for employment."

Concerning the recent program to counter the problem of unemployment, one economic expert says: "Personally, when I saw the government action, I was happy. The employment crisis is undoubtedly the future crisis which our young forces will face. In addition to preventing them from participating and being effectively involved in production, unemployment will cause an increase in the social expenditures to fight crime and various social corruption.

"To solve the employment crisis in East Asia, the government has first paid attention to manpower. In other words, it has seen the progress of employment and its development dependent on more development of human resources and the best use of manpower. If today East Asia has gradually changed to a center of wealth and work, the main reason is deciding this strategy. Military analysts, during the imposed war and the lightning victory of our combatants, believed that the strategy of the use of the wave of manpower was the main reason for our victory over the enemies. The use of such a tool in the economic arena and production, which has shown its efficiency in East Asia, can also be the most efficient stratagem anywhere else."

This expert adds: "The essential issue in this case is the spread of the culture of work. For this purpose, what the grand leader of the revolution said at the beginning of last year and this year in connection with work ethic and social and economic discipline must be taught very well. In fact, this is the key and the main secret of the best use of manpower over of technology. Instead of spending billions of dollars on importing various kinds of complex machinery and foreign consumer products, emphasis on the stratagem of increasing the development of manpower in production along with raising the culture of work on the basis of a work ethic and social and economic discipline is the solution to the problem of unemployment. For this purpose, technical and vocational training must become compulsory in the county, and the production units and any organization that seeks an individual for employment, including actual people and government organizations, must try to only employ trained forces.

"Training is the key to the evolution of the culture of work, better use of work tools, and promoting industrial talents. Hence, the resulting fruition and creativity will create the grounds for the creation of hundreds of thousands of new jobs."

An expert says in this connection: "We hope that the honorable ministers who are assigned to this issue note that the natural course of work is in the stratagem of use of manpower instead of automation on the basis of training and promoting the culture of work. I think that because of lack of long-term planning in the past, in order to counter such a situation, we must design a 10-20-year plan centered around employment."

In an interview with us, one expert spoke about employment and explains his views regarding the manpower modification policy as follows:

"I believe that the modification of manpower should stop altogether and instead attention be paid to the rational and logical issue of transfers.

"In other words, if there is necessarily an accumulation of manpower in one area, first suitable jobs to satisfy the individuals who are subject to such change should be provided, and then with proper training for new jobs, the individuals should be introduced to new jobs. We note that unemployment mostly affects the young forces and the main investment of the country. Hence, the program must concentrate on the future rather than the present."

Article on Southern, Southeastern Ports' Activities

95LA0286A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12, 13 Jun 95

[Article by Majid Zandi]

[12 Jun, p 10]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the start of the imposed war of Iraq against Iran and the lack of activities in the ports of Khorramshahr and Abadan, the shipping industry in the southeastern ports of the country, due to their distance from the war zone, have been the main route for sea trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Since the start of the reconstruction as well, due to regional sensitivities of the Persian Gulf, the ports of the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan and Hormozgan have not lost their special position.

Large commercial and fishing ports with various docks in the Martyr Raja'i Port Complex of Bandar 'Abbas and the Martyr Beheshti and Martyr Raja'i Ports of Chabahar carry out marine activities and services in coordination with the national development programs. In the meantime, what suggests a brighter horizon for the revitalization of the southern ports of the country is the opening of the Bandar 'Abbas-Bafeq railroad, which will be one of the most important factors in sea transport development and naturally the economic growth of the region.

On this basis, after a visit by a group of reporters to these ports on the invitation of the National Ports and Shipping Organization, we decided to look more closely at this water world beyond the dry Iranian plateau, with its boats, tug boats, small and large ships, and able and hard-working hands.

Martyr Raja'i Port

In the twilight, the light of a ship is visible from a distance. The 85,000 ton Danish ship receives permission to enter Iranian waters from the watch tower of the port.

On this side of the water, two officials in a pilot boat move toward the ship to guide the ship toward the port by receiving it and instating the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The instating of the flag is done to confer the security responsibility for it during the period of stay in Bandar 'Abbas on the Iranian Government.

After 45 minutes, the 85,000 ton container ship docks at the special dock for container unloading. On this dock, two large pieces of container unloading equipment called "Gantry crane" begin to work to place a 15 ton container on the trailers every two minutes.

Mr. Eradatmandi, the inspector general of ports and shipping of the province of Hormozgan, says in this connection: The installation of the two "Gantry cranes" in this terminal has increased the loading and unloading of containers significantly.

What is noteworthy is that these two large, expensive cranes have not yet been able to fill the empty place of the container-carrying trucks because in practice, given the lack of timely availability of trailers, even with the two-minute time for unloading containers, the process is almost as slow as in the past. In addition, because the Bandar 'Abbas-Bafeq train is new, it has not yet been fully effective in carrying containers and loads.

In this connection, an expert stationed in the port says: "This equipment is only active 10 out of 24 hours, whereas the Gantry crane should be active in two 24-hour shifts. We hope that with the improvement in the operation of the railroad cars, this problem will be eliminated.

The length of the docks of the Martyr Raja'i Port Complex is 4,900 meters, which has the capacity for the simultaneous docking of 22 commercial and two oil ships. Some of these docks are designed for ships up to a capacity of 30,000 tons; four special goods docks are for ships with a capacity of 60,000 tons and higher; five docks are designed for container goods; two are multipurpose goods docks; and two are oil product import and export docks, which were mentioned earlier.

Still, customs problems have arisen. Customs has not been able to coordinate itself with the potential resources of the southern ports. For example, a law that was ratified in 1351 [21 March 1972-20 March 1973] will never be able to be compatible with the world trade today, but the cause of this must not be blamed only on the customs bureaucracy because moral commitment and the cultural boundary of the society have also not allowed activities for free and unlimited trade of every kind of goods.

Reference to these two issues is made because considering the volume of the existing port resources in the country and in order to make the desirable use of these resources, it is necessary that, by ratifying new customs laws and updating the bureaucracy for the release of goods and also the transit of goods to other countries, we add as much as possible to the flexibility of our ports in order that large "mother" ships and "ocean liners," for reasons that were mentioned, not be forced to dock at the southern ports of the Persian Gulf and reload on second- and third-class ships destined for Iran, thus imposing on us excessive hidden costs to our sea transport industry.

The marine equipment and services of the Martyr Raja'i Port of Bandar 'Abbas consist of two blade dredgers, one 5,000-horsepower vacuuming dredger, three buoy placers equipped with an unloading and loading crane and a buoy repair warehouse, one garbage-collecting vessel, seven 1,200- to 3,200-horsepower tug boats, one fire-fighting vessel equipped with a marine fire-extinguishing system, one water-hauling landing craft, three rope-hauling boats, two special diving operation boats, one hydrofoil boat, and two naval-student training ships.

Regarding the training ship (Qods), it should be mentioned that in the past, this ship was a sea hospital, but in converting it to a training ship, today it has become the most equipped training ship among the Middle East countries. It trains naval students and has 33 faculty members.

Further strategic equipment of this port includes the large "Nosud" dredger, and, according to Captain Gudarzi, because of the decrease in the volume of dredging work on the Iranian coasts, the best use of this dredger is not exclusive to the region.

According to the sunburned captain of the Nosud, indications are that by expanding the activities of this dredger in the southern ports of the Persian Gulf, a huge income will be gained by the country.

Also among the facilities of the Shahid Raja'i Port Complex are 19 warehouses measuring 60 by 150 meters, a sewage processing plant, a high-voltage electricity network, a desalination plant, and a vessel repair slip.

[13 Jun, p 14]

[FBIS Translated Text] The next destination is the historical port of Chabahar, or Chahbahar, a port that at the furthermost southeastern point of Iran in the Oman Sea is hopeful for a thriving future.

Historically, Chabahar Port is associated with the name of "Tis", a forest in that geographical area, also the name of a port that, before Iranian people became familiar with it, was discussed in the reports of European merchants and world travelers over the past two centuries.

Hence, what can be deduced from all the writings of Western and even Iranian world travelers is that "Tis," or the present Chabahar Port, has had a bright history of prosperity, commerce, shipping, and sea travel.

The first place we visit in Chabahar is Martyr Beheshti Port, which with four docking stations at a total length of 600 meters has the capacity for docking four vessels simultaneously and is active with the nominal capacity of 2.5 million tons annually and a depth of 11 meters.

The ports of Martyr Beheshti and Martyr Kalantari are the most important active ports of the province of Sistan and Baluchestan. About 40 ships and more than 400 motor launches of traditional vessels have been active in the import and export of goods in this region last year, and the share of the motor launches in these activities has been mentioned at 50,000 tons.

Among the problems of the Chabahar Port is the lack of a wave barrier. Because of the surge of huge ocean waves, more than half the year the full potential of the ports in the region are not used properly. If in the meantime, vessels moor at the docks, the waves greatly damage both the docks and the vessels.

Mr. Ra'ufi, the director general of ports and shipping in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan, said in connection with building a suitable wave barrier for the docks: The implemental operations of the first phase of building a 260-meter wave barrier will soon start by an Iranian company, but the Chabahar ports, given their size, require 3,000 meters of wave barriers.

Visiting the desalination facilities of Martyr Beheshti Port was the next stage in the schedule of the press representatives. Even though these facilities are not sufficient for all the people in the region, they are very valuable.

The Martyr Kalantari Port is also another active port in the region. This port has coastal facilities, a loading dock, a center for combating sea water pollution, a vessel registration unit, a customs office, a fire department, and inspection and passenger terminals.

In connection with the passenger terminal, it is necessary to point out that until some time ago it was active, but due to lack of passengers because of the speed of air travel, this terminal has lost its popularity, and the Ports and Shipping Organization intends to re-equip it.

Here, it is necessary to refer to the efforts of the officials of Chabahar Port, who want, in addition to the special and strategic situation of the region, to carry out the foreign trade needs and sea trade of the two provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan and Khorasan. Fortunately, the Chabahar Free Trade Zone has come to their help. Whether this free trade zone will benefit the native people as much as it does the Turkish or Shiraz merchants is another question which we cannot answer here.

Also, in connection with the fishing ports and the sunburned fishermen of Chabahar, it must be said that life goes on, and with such hard work and struggle. The government, by sending refrigerated trailers, has come to their aid. In several interviews with several launch owners and workers, it was clear that all of them are somehow happy that the government buys the fish on the shore.

Nevertheless, in the midst of a mass of straw mats and huts, Chabahar is still the epitome of the well-known terms of poverty and deprivation.

Aside from the equipped facilities with normal life that exist in some areas of Chabahar, what you see from the beginning of the desert route to Chabahar are masses of huts that are also seen in various places around the city. Here, the life that you witness under the shadow of doubly difficult work with negligible results goes on in the middle of a straw mat made of palm leaves and powdered dust around a hut with a few wooden posts and a strip of cane, that is all.

Sunburn and recession, the yellowness in the eyes of children, the anemia of mothers due to malnutrition, the long water lines, buying a small bunch of grass for 500 tumans to feed two goats, the illiteracy of all members of a family, and ultimately short lives govern here.

Inside every hut or in the area around it you see five or six children of different sizes, sitting around a relatively young mother, and more painful is that you witness children seven or eight years old with the bodies of four year olds, with their clothes left over from the age of four stuck to their bodies.

Water, hygiene, bath, and toilet are all alien words, and if among several huts you see a toilet, it is two parallel posts with a mat around it.

The government has done some work here, and there are many developmental activities under way. What upsets you in Chabahar, though, is the staggering and excessive poverty and deprivation that force some of these people to cooperate with smugglers to make a living, and some others are forced to give to the merchants the birth certificates of their family members to get "customs green slips" for the Chabahar Free Zone.

In connection with the green slips, it should be pointed out that these people can only use the birth certificates of their family members once a year, which they give to the wealthy merchants to get Customs green slips, so that a maximum of 2,000 tumans is gained thereby for each birth certificate.

Nevertheless, reaching the sandy shores of Chabahar, a white-haired old Baluch net weaver makes you content to see that, even if you are not a man of the sea, there is work on the shore, and makes evident the prospect that nobility does not recognize age, and a legitimate living, even though difficult, can be made.

A local official, in connection with the hut dwellers, believes: "This area is deprived and these people are the most deprived in Chabahar, but since the victory of the revolution, the situation has improved." Another believes that "they have not yet been able to adjust themselves to the development in the Free Trade Zone of Chabahar."

Only by using the saddest of words is it possible to speak of people whose food is nothing more than "water, bread, and pepper," which we cannot do in this short article.

Suffice it to say that these have all been introductory remarks about Chabahar, and we hope that the promises given by the officials to the coastal dwellers of Chabahar will be fulfilled. What has been observed is that developmental activities and various projects, with the continuous efforts of the deprived people of the region, will target the malignant phenomenon of deprivation, a goal of which is to pave the road to the overall development of the province of Sistan and Baluchestan and Hormozgan.

On the Sidelines of Bandar 'Abbas and Chabahar

Every glass of water was sold at between 50 and 100 rials [R].

Liquid gas capsules were bought and sold up to 600 tumans.

Flights both from Tehran to Bandar 'Abbas and from there to other areas still suffer much delay.

The coasts of Bandar 'Abbas were polluted.

The Chabahar City Hall is more active.

Buying and selling is done in dollars in the luxurious Sailors Club of Shahid Raja'i Port.

The water of Chabahar wells is bitter and salty.

Iron ware, chemicals, oil products, dairies, sugar, rice, coal, wheat, corn, barley, vegetable oil, vehicles, and electronic appliances enter the country through the southern ports.

Minister: Steel Production To Reach 5 Million Tons

LD2608221795 Tehran IRNA in English
1739 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Aug 26 (IRNA) — Iran's steel production is to reach 5 million tons this year, a 2.5 fold increase compared to the early days of the Islamic revolution, Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq said here last night.

Ol-Eshaq, speaking at a gathering of industrial officials of Khorasan Province, outlined the growth of some of the national and industrial products in the country.

According to the minister, aluminium production in Iran has gone up two folds compared to the beginning of the Islamic revolution while production of chemical fertilizers has reached a record 700,000 tons annually.

He added that the government has invested some $30 billion in various industrial sectors.

The country has achieved self-sufficiency in cement production and the government is planning to export its surplus to other countries, he added.

The minister estimated the damage inflicted on the country during the imposed war at around $1,000 billion saying reconstruction work in parts of the war-devastated areas was in progress while it has been completed in other regions.

The Governor-General of Khorasan, Esma'il Mofidi, who was also present at the gathering said the strategic Mashhad-Sarakhs Railway is nearing completion and will be officially inaugurated in April 1996. Once completed it will connect land-locked Central Asian countries to the Persian Gulf and international waters.

He added that wheat production in the province has shown a steady increase every year and the government expects to buy 650,000 tons of surplus wheat from farmers here this year.

In milk production Khorasan has reached self-sufficiency and in sectors such as energy, urban development, telecommunications, health, housing, water and power supply, excellent progress has been made, he concluded.

Export Statistics for First Quarter of Year

LD2808203095 Tehran IRNA in English
1951 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA — Export of 2,479 tons of non-oil commodities in first quarter of the year (March 21-July 22) fetched the country rls. 2,259 billion (dlrs. 1,291 million). The Iranian customs office in its report released here on Monday said carpets shared 34 percent of the volume of exports followed by chemical substances 12 percent, pistachio 10 percent, iron and steel 7 percent, garments 3 percent, pickled hides 1.9 percent, foodstuff 1.5 percent and copper 1.3 percent.

Based on the report, export of 9,262 tons of hand-woven woolen and silk carpets in the said period earned the country rls. 759 billion, showing a rise of 16 percent compared to the figures for the corresponding period last year.

Chemical substances with a net weight of 784,000 tons brought rls. 272 billion while the 405,000 tons of iron and steel exports were worth rls. 136 billion. The share of pickled hides and cow hides was rls. 43 billion, indicating a 28 percent rise while garments with a 33 percent increase made up rls. 68 billion.

The rest of the exports were 32,000 tons of foodstuff worth rls. 34 billion, 7,000 tons of anode and cathode copper worth rls. 31 billion and 6,680 tons of copper and aluminium utensils, worth rls. 36 billion, the report concluded.

Jannati: Khomeyni's Will 'More Important' Than Law

LD2508144695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 25 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

I have chosen a few sentences from the will and testament of His Eminence the Imam [Khomeyni] which I wish to read. This does not concern only the government but all organizations. As an introduction, I wish to ask a question about whether the clear guidelines of His Eminence the Imam in his will and testament are worth being made into laws or not? Let everyone be aware of this question and let them give their own answers to it. If you say that they are not worth being made into law, then this is a blasphemy against the revolution, it is a rejection of the revolution. It means that the imam's leadership was confined to his own lifetime, and that he does not exercise any leadership after his death. However, his remarks, especially his will and testament, are for ever and for all times. So long as this revolution exists his will and the rest of his guidelines will also exist. On the other hand, if they are worth being made into laws, then if someone acted on the basis of the imam's guidelines he should not be reprimanded by anybody.

In the light of the above, I now wish to read the following sentences from [the will and testament of] His Eminence the Imam:

Now my will and testament to both the present and future Islamic Consultative Majles, the president and future presidents, to the Guardian Council and the Judiciary Council and the government at all times is that they should not allow news agencies and the press and magazines to deviate from Islam and the interests of the country. All of us should know that freedom in its Western form which leads to the corruption of the youths, the boys and the girls, is condemned by Islam and reason. Propaganda, articles, speeches and books which are contrary to Islam and to public chastity and to the interests of the country are forbidden [haram]. It is the duty of all Muslims to prevent such publications.

Can he be any more explicit and any clearer?

Harmful freedoms should be prevented. If the people or Hezbollahi youth come across such cases, they should refer it to the relevant bodies; but if the latter do not act they [youths and people] themselves are dutybound to prevent such things. [audience shouts: "God is great"].

If a few Hezbollahi youths saw an example of what the imam referred to, and if they wrote letters and brought it to the attention of the relevant officials, saying that such and such a thing is happening in this place, that this corruption is being perpetrated in this publication or in this organization, or other organizations; that they are propagating the Western style democracy. Come and do something.

Now, if they [officials] did not do anything and if the Hezbollahi youths themselves went and acted by themselves, has the judiciary any right to confront them? Have the security officials any right to confront them? Has any other official the right to confront them? They possess that document [Khomeyni's will]. That document is much more important than the law. The law's legitimacy is derived from that. The laws passed by the Majles, the laws which are approved in the system of the Islamic Republic are based on the guidance, leadership and guidelines of His Eminence the Imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. That is the fountainhead of our revolution, the basis of our Majles and our government and our judiciary.

Therefore, I urge the Hezbollahi youth to act according to this guideline. I also urge the officials that if the Hezbollahi children engaged in an action and acted on the basis of their duties and responsibilities, you should at least not reprimand them, as a sign of your respect for the imam. [passage omitted]

Let me also say a few sentences on foreign issues. Today you know that once again America's mischief-making acts in the Persian Gulf have increased. Once again America is amassing troops; once again it is showing its teeth and claws. The pretext is that Iraq might want to attack Kuwait or Jordan and so forth, and that they [the Americans] should prevent it.

This is a very ridiculous assertion. One has of course heard such allegations from some of those who have fled Iraq and have gone to Jordan and have been given asylum there. But can any reasonable person believe that a man [Saddam Husayn] who on the day when he had all his forces intact, when he had his weapons and ammunition, when he possessed his military capabilities, when his enemy was not stationed next to him, when his country was not dismembered; on that day he attacked Kuwait but was crushed in a shameful and disgraceful manner and had to withdraw in miserable defeat, was not able to achieve anything and was condemned by the entire world.

Can such a person have any ambitions once again to attack Kuwait under conditions when a lot of his forces have perished, when his country has disintegrated in that manner, when all his weaponry and ammunition and military capabilities are under American control, when America is stationed next to his country and is constantly watching it and is present there — and of course he [Saddam Husayn] was responsible for this presence and brought about such a calamity to the region. Would there be even one in a million chance that such an attack would be successful and that it would even be allowed to take place?

My understanding is that America regards it probable — or perhaps there are certain conspiracies afoot — that in any case that regime is about to fall. If that regime falls it is possible that a popular [mardomi] government might come to power. A popular government is something that America does not like to see anywhere. America wishes to see a government which is subservient to it, especially in this region, in Iraq and under these special circumstances, next door to the Islamic revolution of Iran.

America is getting ready for such an eventuality. We hope that, God willing, this conspiracy will also fail, like all its other conspiracies, and it will be so [crowd chants: "Amen"]. We should always maintain our vigilance. We should maintain our readiness. We should carefully watch the situation and control their comings and goings and their movements. As the Koran says: Maintain your readiness. You should not become neglectful of the enemy; especially as it [America] has come to the region, next door to us. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Supreme Court Reinstates Disbanded Parliament

BK2808125595 Hong Kong AFP in English
1224 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, August 28 (AFP) — Nepal's Supreme Court reinstated the disbanded lower house of parliament Monday [28 August] and cancelled mid-term polls slated for November 23, a court source said.

King Birendra had disbanded the lower house on June 13 and announced mid-term polls at the request of Prime Minister Mana Mohan Adhikari, who said his Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) government was being hampered by the parliament.

Seven groups, including the main opposition Nepali Congress (NC), had filed petitions at the court in June demanding reinstatement of the parliament and cancellation of snap polls, saying the moves were unconstitutional.

Eight of 11 Supreme Court justices voted in favour of reinstating parliament.

Soon after the court's verdict, a victory procession of over 20,000 people was organized by the petitioners. They chanted slogans against the communist party government.

Supporters of the petitioners said the court had sided with democracy, which was reintroduced in Nepal in 1990 after a 49-day protest against the 30-year-old partyless Panchayat government.

Radio Views 'Landmark' Verdict

BK2908054595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Aug 95

["Dispatch" from Ratan Salve, All India Radio Kathmandu correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of Nepal reinstating the dissolved lower house of parliament has established beyond doubt independence of the judiciary. It will go a long way in strengthening parliamentary democracy. The 49-page judgment sets at rest the long drawn legal and constitutional battle between the Communist Government and the major non-left opposition parties — the Nepali Congress, Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, and Sadbhavana Party. Eight judges, including the chief justice Mr. Justice Vishwanath Upadhyaya, out of 11 on the special bench declared the prime minister Mr. Mana Mohan Adhikari's recommendation to the king to dissolve the parliament and call for fresh elections as unconstitutional. Three judges gave dissenting judgments.

Nepal's Parliament was dissolved on the recommendation of the prime minister on the 13 June and fresh elections were scheduled for the 23 November this year. The judges ordered that the speaker and the cabinet secretariat will convene a special session of the lower house to take up the no-confidence motion of the Nepali Congress against the government. The motion was pending when the house was dissolved. the learned judges also reflected that in a parliamentary democracy, elected representatives should be allowed to exercise the responsibility instead of going to the people for a political solution frequently.

The Communist Party of Nepal — UML [United Marxist-Leninist] — minority government was formed on 30 November last year after the midterm poll and it could survive just six months. It is also the second time in less than a year that the Supreme Court had to intervene in a political and constitutional crisis in the country. Last year, when Girija Prasad Koirala government resigned on the 10 July, recommending dissolution of Parliament, the Supreme Court was moved, but it refused to reinstate Parliament. The special session of the lower house of parliament is expected to be called early next month to take up the vote of no confidence. Mr. Sher Bahadur Doba of the Nepali Congress, who had been chosen by the three non-left opposition parties, is confident of forming a coalition government. They have combined effective strength of 106 in a house of 205 members. There are three vacancies at present. The court also refused to drag the constitutional monarchy into the legal battle, arguing that the prime minister and the council of ministers are solely responsible and answerable for any action taken by the king on their recommendation.

Pakistan

Daily Views U.S. Responsibility To Improve Ties

BK2308103195 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 23 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "These Are Nice Words, But..."]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is good to note that the President and Vice President of the United States have expressed in pretty clear terms the hope that Pakistan-U.S. relations would continue to improve. This is a hope which the people of Pakistan would very much wish to see materialising in something more tangible than sweet words. It is time the governing people in the United States — in the White House, the Capitol Hill, the Department of State, Pentagon, and the World Bank — realised that the end of the Cold War does not mean Washington's responsibilities as the sole superpower have diminished. On the contrary its obligations have increased. Specially the responsibility to look after the interests of those nations which stood by the United States and helped it win the Cold War. Pakistan is one such state. It was only till yesterday that this country was fighting the last phase of the war to see the Soviet Union pass into history. It was the war of the United States being fought by Pakistanis and from the soil of this friendly nation. It is a matter of no small disappointment to the people of Pakistan regardless of their political inclinations that the United States has forgotten all about the moral debt it owes to Pakistan leave alone the cost to Pakistan of that war in physical and material terms. The surfeit of weapons and consequent shooting rise in the incidence of violent crime is a direct legacy of the United States war in Afghanistan which Pakistan fought as its own and suffered. If Pakistan expects as it has every right to some special consideration and compensation for the damage sustained as a result of the Afghan war it is by no means asking for too much. There may be some suggestions that Pakistan's relations with the United States are in the direction of improvement. In real terms however the desired improvement is not so visible. That for purely political reasons the present government in Islamabad may be trumpeting about improvement as its achievement does not convince the people of Pakistan. What they want is better give and take between Islamabad and Washington. And that is still to come. It may not be quite as distant and doubtful as it looked a year ago but real improvement is certainly not round the next bend, not yet, President Clinton's nice gestures notwithstanding.

President Talks With U.S. Senators on 'Arms Race'

BK2808120095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 27 — President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said on Sunday [27 August] that India's Prithvi missile, like the American Pressler law was Pakistan specific and multiplier of tensions in the region.

He was talking to the visiting American Senators Hank Brown and Arlen Specter who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr here today.

The president said the production of Prithvi and development of Agni has tremendously increased Indian threat perceptions to Pakistan and started a new arms race in the region. He reiterated Pakistan's position of a regional approach to the nuclear issue.

The president said Pakistan could play a very useful role for peace and stability in the region because of its unique strategic position. As a moderate democratic country, Pakistan could also act as a bridge between the Western world and the Muslim countries.

The president said Pakistan also provided the shortest land route from the Central Asian Republics to the warm waters. He hoped that with peace in Afghanistan there could be tremendous economic activity and mega development projects amongst various countries of the region.

The president appreciated the efforts of the Clinton administration and Senator Brown to remove the irritant of the Pressler between the two old friends and close allies.

The president also briefed the senators about the consensus which exists in Pakistan on all vital national issues like the nuclear issue and our basic economic policies including privatisation.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, U.S. Ambassador in Pakistan, John C Monjo, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Dr Maleeha Lodhi and senior concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

Later Hank Brown expressed the hope that his amendment will clarify the Pressler Amendment this year, removing restrictions on "the kind of activities that all Americans and Pakistanis agree we ought to be involved in".

"What we think will happen this year is a clarification of the Pressler Amendment so that it does not exclude those kind of activities that all Americans and Pakistanis agree that we ought to be involved in", he told reporters after planting a sapling at Shakarparian.

Pakistan's Ambassador to United States Dr Maleeha Lodhi, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan J C Monjo and Chairman Capital Development Authority (C DA) Zafar Iqbal accompanied him at the tree plantation ceremony, after the U.S. senator flew into the capital in the afternoon. [passage omitted]

Customs Requests Extradition of U.S. Drug Suspects

BK2908075095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 Aug 95 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (App) — Customs Department here has approached the Central Board of Revenue (CBR) to request the US government for extradition of those US nationals who were members of a drug syndicate involved in the 12 kg heroin smuggling case.

According to informed sources the customs have maintained that according to their investigations the drug conspiracy had originated in the USA, it would be in the interest of prosecution that those US national involved in this drug syndicate based in USA be brought into the case and US government may be requested to extradite them.

In case it is not possible to seek extradition of US Nationals to Pakistan, then a Customs Investigation Team be sent to USA to examine the detained US nationals in the light of investigations carried out here so that the entire drug racket is unearthed.

It may be recalled here that staff of Drug Enforcement Cell posted at the departure Hall of Quaid-e-Azam International Airport recovered and seized 12 kg of fine quality heroin from the collective baggage of three US nationals namely Christopher Rolling Kelly, Carrie Leigh Dempsey and Jody Lynn on July 12, 1995. All of them were arrested and a FIR [First Information Report] lodged in the Court of Special Judge (Customs and Taxation).

An in-depth investigation into the matter later revealed that the US nationals involved in drug trafficking were members of an international drug syndicate.

The investigations showed that one Khalid Yusuf Malik had suppled heroin stuffed suitcases to US nationals whom he had lodged at Hotel Kabana Lahore. It further came to light that contraband had to be delivered to one Mike in New York who was also a member of the cartel. In turn he was to deliver the stuff to one Eddie in Washington DC.

The Customs investigators here immediately contacted US Drug Enforcement Administration at Karachi and the information was passed on to them for action. Resultantly, Mike was arrested from Kennedy Airport, New York where he was waiting to receive the courier on board PK-721.

DEA also informed that their counterparts in USA have been able to identify and rounded up three other accused Donald Wardrick alias Eddie who was involved in 32 cases in USA for Cocaine distribution, Porteal Troytene Groom alias "PT" and a female Minerva Mojica in Washington DC.

In Pakistan the Customs Investigators arrested Khalid Yusuf Malik and also procured tangible evidence against him. On request by Customs Investigation agency here the DEA Karachi provided criminal record of accused Khalid Yusuf according to which he was convicted for involvement in conspiracies of drug smuggling and had remained in prison in USA for 14 years.

It is believed that if US nationals involved in this case are extradited or the Customs investigators allowed to go to USA to examine them there; major disclosures are expected to be achieved.

Bhutto Returns From Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan Visits

BK2708123395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad last night after a five-day official visit to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

She made a brief stopover in the Kyrgyz city of Osh on her way home. The people of Osh warmly greated the Pakistan prime minister. Talking to newsmen, she expressed the confidence that leaders of the entire region, including Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, could mobilize their people's energy to build a new prosperous and better society. The prime minister walked all the way to the mosque on Suleyman mountain and offered prayers there. She prayed for peace and prosperity of the region. The mosque was built by the famous Mogul King Zahiruddin Babur.

During Benazir Bhutto's visit to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan signed a number of agreements to further strengthen friendship with the two countries.

Visit Seen as 'Extraordinary Success'

BK2808040495 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 27 Aug 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Prime Minister's Successful Visit to Kyrgyzstan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The most encouraging aspect of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Krygyzstan is that not only were agreements signed to increase cooperation between the two countries but the president of Krygyzstan supported Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue in very clear terms and declared his complete solidarity with the people of Kashmir. He strongly condemned the desecration of Muslim holy places by the Indian troops in Kashmir and expressed his deep concern over the violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He emphasized that India should resolve the Kashmir issue according to the UN resolutions. The President of Krgyyzstan warmly welcomed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's proposal that a working group should be formed to improve road links between Pakistan, China, Krygyzstan and Kazakhstan and that this working group should meet every two months so that any problems arising in the process can be resolved. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in principle agreed to a proposal to purchase electricity from Krygyzstan and said that the proposal would be implemented if it seemed feasible after an examination of its technical and financial aspects. Prime Minister Bhutto apprised the Krgyzstan president of the efforts Pakistan is making to restore stability in Afghanistan. Although this was the first visit by any Pakistani prime minister to Krygyzstan, the extraordinary success of the visit can be used as a base for strengthening Pakistan's relations with the Central Asian states, and sincere and concerted efforts can start a new era of political and cultural harmony and business cooperation.

Propects of Economic Ties With Kazakhstan Viewed

BK2508120795 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 25 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Closer Ties With Kazakhstan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kazakhstan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has affirmed her intention to realise the tremendous potential of bilateral relations and cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan without further loss of time. She has optimistically stated that her visit to the country is to translate its historical and cultural ties with Pakistan, dating back to the 11th and 12th century, into modern politico-economic terms. In a unipolar world where regional cooperation has virtually become a necessary precondition for survival, the objective certainly needs to be pursued earnestly. Given that SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] has proved itself to be ineffectual, owing to India's hegemonic designs, looking toward Central Asia for regional cooperation is definitely logical. In that connection, the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) has been a useful effort to bring about social and economic cooperation between Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrghyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan. However, considering India's concern over Pakistan's greater association with Central Asian Republics [CARs], and given Moscow's sense of insecurity at any foreign connections of the CARs, developing effective relationships with CARs may not be an easy task. Also, with no solution in sight for the internal strife in Afghanistan, and with the future relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan being uncertain, Pakistan's land links with CARs through the latter country are not assured.

Despite all these impediments to Pakistan's efforts to develop ties with Central Asian Republics, one leverage is positively there: the CAR's need for a marine outlet and Pakistan's suitability for that purpose. Mutual interests make it possible to be optimistic that the Central Asian states will not ignore Pakistan. That transit facilities between Pakistan and its friendly neighbours need to be improved has long been recognised. Hence, the earlier quadripartite agreement on "Traffic in Transit through Karakoram Highway" between Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kryghzstan, and China, and the bilateral agreement on "International Motor Transport." During the present trip of our prime minister to Kazakhstan, Pakistan has made an offer of its port facilities for Kazakhstan trade with the outside world. It is good to know that Kazakhstan president is eager to reciprocate the Pakistani desire for a close and progressive relationship. Earlier the two countries had signed four agreements on the principles of mutual cooperation, helping each other in legal cases, avoidance of double taxation, and reciprocal trips by the citizens of both the countries. This time, it is hoped that more agreement of similar nature will be signed. The two countries are members of OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], and their cooperation will be beneficial not only economically, but also for solving problems relating to the Muslim world.

Official Reaffirms Commitment to 'Islamic Causes'

BK2808112495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, Mr. George Clement, told the National Assembly today that government has taken concrete measures to reinforce Pakistan's fraternal relations with Islamic countries. Answering a question by Mian Mohammad Munir, he said Pakistan has always attached highest priority to its relations with Islamic countries. It has spared no effort to defend all just Islamic causes and has played an active role within the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference]. He said there has been appreciation of Pakistan's role as chairman of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia.

Mr. George Clement said as a result of liberalization of the national economy, Pakistan's trade and economic relations with the countries of the Middle East had expanded considerably with the result that not only joint ventures and investments have increased, but Pakistan's exports to the region have also gone up.

The minister for food and agriculture, Nawab Mohammad Yusuf Talpur, to a question by Mian Abdul Waheed, said wheat yield in 1994-95 increased by 10 percent. He said a number of measures have been taken by the government to increase productivity.

Minister Comments on Government-Altaf Group Talks

BK2808134495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The sixth round of the government-Altaf Group talks begin Karachi tomorrow. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the leader of the government negotiating team, Federal Minister Professor N.D. Khan, said peace in Karachi is on the top of our agenda. If peace is restored in Karachi, the government will hold local bodies elections in Sindh within one year. Fifty thousand people in Karachi will be given jobs. Prof. N.D. Khan said that with the restoration of peace in Karachi, work on various projects under the prime minister's special package of 121 billion rupees will start bringing economic prosperity to the city. There would be heavy foreign investment in Karachi, but peace is the only condition. Prof. N.D. Khan said terrorism and killing of innocent citizens cannot achieve any purpose. He said peace and security could be restored only through political means.

Bhutto Assures 'Extra Mile' for Karachi Peace

BK2908111995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said her government is ready to go an extra mile for encouraging a political solution of the Karachi situation. She told the foreign mediamen in Islamabad today that the government was ready to take political and economic measures for accommodating those Altaf Group people who believe in nonviolent ways for finding solution of the problems. The prime minister said other things can be worked out provided politics of violence is eschewed to make political negotiation succeed. She said whatever they wish to gain, they can gain only through dialogue and one could also discuss the power- sharing formula in Sindh. The prime minister expressed the hope that her government would be able to convince the Altaf Group people to give up their policy of violence as the citizens of Pakistan, including Karachi, were fed up with the violence that had damaged the national economy.

Leader Condemns Indian Plans for Kashmir Elections

BK2708134695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of parliamentary committee on Kashmir, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, has condemned the Indian plan to hold elections for Ladakh council tomorrow in occupied Kashmir having Buddhist majority and termed it as a conspiracy by the Indian rulers to stir communal riots in Ladakh. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan supported All Parties Hurriyat Conference's call for a protest strike throughout the occupied Kashmir tomorrow. He said the people of Pakistan also condemn this desperate act on the part of Indian rulers.

Tracing the historical background of Ladakh, he said the district Kargil having Muslim majority, while Leh having Buddhist majority has been all along a communal tension-free area. [sentence as heard] Now by holding so-called elections in one district of the area, Indian rulers are out to divide occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Spokesman, 'Observers' View Kashmir Arrests, Polls

BK2808155395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In occupied Kashmir, the Indian authorities have arrested Kashmiri leaders Shabir Shah, Abdul Ghani Lone, and Yasin Malik for advocating the boycott of so-called elections in Leh district. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today regretted the arrest of these leaders and said there is little enthusiasm for the so-called political process initiated by the Indian authorities in the held-valley. He pointed out that for 22 out of 26 seats [for Ladakh Hill Council], there has only been one candidate, and for the remaining four there is little enthusiasm. He said the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has called for holding a plebiscite to know the wishes of the people — whether they want to stay with India or with Pakistan — instead of staging election drama.

Informed observers believe that this was the first of a new set of oppressive measures that Indian authorities would take in the immediate future in the hope that such measures would not attract international attention at the time when the hostage drama has grabbed the media headline. These diplomatic sources said this was the first dividend that India was garnering from the hostage crisis and reinforces the assertion of many observers that the hostage crisis was stage-managed by the Indian Government and exploited for as long as possible.

Spokesman Voices 'Concern' Over Kashmir Situation

BK2808134695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has expressed concern over the deteriorating situation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. An official spokesman of the Foreign Office has noted with regret that the Indian authorities have arrested Mr. Shabir Shah, Abdul Ghani Lone, and Yasin Malik [Kashmiri leaders] for advocating the boycotting of the fraudulent elections in Leh. In a statement issued in Islamabad, the spokesman said the nature of the elections is apparent from the fact that for 22 out of 26 seats there has been only one candidate. The spokesman said that instead of seeking to organize fraudulent elections, there should be a plebiscite in which the people of Kashmir could freely indicate whether they wish to stay with India or with Pakistan.

Spokesman Rules Out Entry of Kashmir Kidnappers

BK2808163695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has said that it will not allow entry into the country to any of the kidnappers or persons who are responsible for taking foreign tourists hostage in Indian occupied Kashmir. A Foreign office spokesman said today that these persons were criminals and should be deal with in accordance with the law.

Editorial Previews Visit by IMF Delegation

BK2808122995 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 28 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "IMF conditionalities"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A three-member high-powered delegation of IMF has arrived in Islamabad in connection with the release of the second tranche of 300 million dollars, of the 1.5 billion dollars three years structural adjustment loan. The week long visit will focus on Pakistan budget which has reached 5.6 percent of the GDP rather than the contemplated 4 percent under the agreement. Similarly, the maximum tariff was trimmed to 65 percent from 70 percent. The IMF and the Pakistan government are anxious to continue the dialogue to sustain economic confidence and it is hoped that the IMF will appreciate that Pakistan could only implement the suggestions which are not harmful to its people.

The current micro-economic imbalance was inherited by the present government due to the unchecked expenditure by the previous government which reached 20.3 percent of the GDP in 1992-93 resulting in an overall budgetary deficit of 7.9 percent of the GDP. This resulted in inflation which exceeded 30 percent during the last three years. In order to put the economy back on the tract, the present government committed to reduce the budgetary deficit to 4 percent of the GDP to bring down the rate of inflation and slash the maximum tariff to 45 percent to encourage free trade as the raison d'etre of the WTO [World Trade Organization]. Since falling prices are always bad for trade, reducing the rate of inflation to 4 percent at this stage would adversely affect the production in the country, bring down the GDP and even increase unemployment. Pakistan can ill afford to pay this price when it is still passing through a period bordering on recession. A drastic reduction in the budget is no blessing and its adverse affects cannot be acceptable. Similarly, though Pakistan is a signatory to the UN convention to make the global trade free, its industrial development at the present stage is not in a position to withstand the onslaught of foreign products produced with the latest technology which compare very favourably both in price and quality. Pakistan will therefore have to open its markets to foreign competition gradually and it has already reduced the tariff by 5 percent to give a breathing space to the local industry. It will also not curtail the government income drastically. Hopefully the IMF team will prove flexible in appreciating the difficulties of Pakistan to agree release the second tranche of 300 million dollars to Pakistan.

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